

Socialists support peace efforts

BRUSSELS (Petra) — The Belgian Socialist Party and all socialist parties in Europe back all endeavours to achieve peace in the Middle East and support ongoing peace efforts in the region, according to the Belgian Socialist Party leader. The Belgian Socialist Party, which is the main partner in the present coalition government, will pursue efforts within the European Community (EC) framework to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, the party leader said in a statement during a meeting with Jordan's Ambassador to Belgium Hassan Abu Nimah and other Arab envoys and Belgian ministers. He said that the present chance for peace should not be missed because it could never present itself again. The ambassador reviewed His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to attain a just and durable peace through an international Middle East peace conference. He also spoke about Jordan's efforts to back the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its endeavours to regain the rights of the Palestinian people through the called-for conference, which can bring about a lasting settlement to the problem.

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His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets with a delegation of university students (Petra photo)

King receives Arafat message on contacts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a message from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on the outcome of the PLO's recent political contacts and the achievements made as a result of the clear political strategy adopted by the PLO in light of the resolutions passed by Palestine National Council late last year.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the message was delivered by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, who was received by the King in a special audience.

King Hussein briefed Abbas on Jordan's views on a number of aspects pertaining to the Palestine question and voiced Jordan's full support of the PLO's new political approach, "which has proved successful on the path of restoration of Palestinian national rights," Petra said. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.



ERH Crown Prince Hassan

Crown Prince urges focus on private sector

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday the objective of development was no longer restricted to achieving high growth rates but had extended to ensuring interaction between the social and economic aspects of development, mobilisation of the available resources and directing them towards initiating radical changes in the structure of the society and its welfare.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Petra photo)

King thanks Egyptian council, says ACC is a historic turn

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to the People's Council in Egypt thanking its members for congratulating him on the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The King said that the ACC formation was a historic event designed to bolster pan-Arab action and consolidate solidarity among Arab states.

The People Council's Arab Affairs and Economic Committee in Egypt have approved the ACC, which was proclaimed in Baghdad on Feb. 16. Members of the two committees delivered speeches expressing support for the council, which, they said, is bound to give further impetus to ongoing efforts to strengthen the Arab Nation's economy.

Iran severs diplomatic relations with Britain

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran, accusing London of anti-Islamic "treachery," Tuesday severed relations with Britain, escalating a three-week-old crisis over the novel "The Satanic Verses" which many Muslims consider blasphemous.

Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Mousavi said the move "reflected Iran's resolve to defend Islam."

Britain blamed Iran and relatives of British hostages in Lebanon said Tehran's decision to break diplomatic ties with London dashed hopes of an early release.

John Waite, cousin of Church of England envoy Terry Waite, who vanished in Beirut in 1987 and is believed held by pro-Iranian kidnappers, said: "This is undoubtedly a setback for us and other families who were hoping for an early release."

Iran acted in retaliation for Britain's condemnation of a death order issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, against Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie.

The Foreign Office, which has no diplomats in Tehran, said it was awaiting formal notice of the break in relations but added: "The present situation is entirely of Iran's making."

A spokesman said: "Incitement to murder is a violation of the most elementary principles and obligations that govern relations between sovereign states. It has been vigorously condemned around the world."

The government will make an official response once Sweden, which represents British interests in Iran, officially delivers the Iranian decision.

Iran decided on the break, expected to cost Britain lucrative export contracts, despite a public British acknowledgement that Rushdie's book was offensive to Muslims.

King reaffirms commitment to Palestinian cause, rights

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan had always been committed to supporting the Palestinian cause and doing every possible effort to defend the Palestinian rights and backing the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Addressing a delegation of students from the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University at a meeting held at the Royal Court, King Hussein said Jordan, inspired by the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, had, since its creation, sought to achieve the noble objectives of the Arab Nation and to realise its hopes.

King Hussein reviewed the stages of the Palestine question, Israel's occupation of Arab territories in 1967 and Jordan's efforts to restore the Palestinian soil and rights.

King Hussein pointed out that Israel had tried, after its occupation of the West Bank, to undermine the Jordanian-Palestinian unity, under the pretext that Jordan was the homeland for the Palestinians.

King congratulates Assad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Syria's National Day. The King wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity.

Israeli troops kill 1, wound 51

CONGRATULATE YOU ALL. Staff in the clinic in the Jabalya refugee camp told the AP 25 Palestinians were hurt, among them an eight-year-old girl, a local journalist and two U.N. ambulance drivers.

The army slapped a new curfew on Nablus, the largest town in the occupied West Bank where staff at Al Itihad hospital said troops shot dead Hakam Bakir, 18, in his home in the market area.

The violence in Gaza and the West Bank came in protest of the deaths of three Palestinians Monday, including the unexplained death of a Palestinian held in a Shin Bet interrogation centre.

Reuters correspondent Paul Taylor saw three women taken away on stretchers and said an army commander commended his men, telling them: "Good job, I congratulate you all."

Widespread demonstrations took place in refugee camps and towns in the Gaza Strip, where 650,000 Palestinians live. Reports said 22 Palestinians were wounded by gunfire, and there were several reports of soldiers beating Arabs.

Claire Grimes, a spokeswoman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which administers refugee education and relief programmes, said that "every area of the Gaza Strip is very active," especially the Jabalya refugee camp.

Boys left school, set up barricades and burned tyres in Jabalya to protest the death Monday of camp resident Ahmad Ramadani Al Azami, who was shot in the chest by soldiers during a demonstration.

Soldiers chased Palestinians into the UNRWA clinic in the Jabalya refugee camp and caused some damage to the facility, doctor and a U.N. official said.

Peace efforts should focus on moderate Israelis — Waldegrave

By Rania Attalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Britain favours supporting moderate forces in Israel seeking a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, rather than pushing Israelis into a "siege mentality," British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said Tuesday.

Those forces in Israel which are at present rather disorganised but widespread and which want a political solution, (should be) supported and developed," Waldegrave said at a press conference on the second day of his visit to Jordan.

Waldegrave, who Sunday ended a five-day trip to the occupied territories and Israel, said Britain was trying to persuade Israeli leaders to adopt the idea of an international peace conference. Britain, he said, believes that Israel can attain security "not only by having armed forces but by (concluding) a treaty structure of peace around it."



William Waldegrave

Baker to visit Moscow in May

VIENNA (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze ended two hours of talks in Vienna Monday with agreement to meet again in Moscow in May to discuss prospects for a superpower summit.

Baker told reporters after the meeting that the United States would complete its review of the strategic arms reduction talks (START), after which Washington could resume negotiations with the Soviet Union.

On the Middle East, Baker restated the view that a U.N.-sponsored peace conference, an idea backed by the Soviet Union and the West Europeans, could jeopardise the search for a solution.

The U.S. has declined support for such a conference partly because Israel refuses to have anything to do with it.

Thatcher warns anew of ozone damage; more join pact

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Tuesday that damage to the earth's ozone shield would last through the 21st century and called for action by every country to protect the planet's life support systems.

She was delivering the closing address at a three-day conference attended by 123 countries and dedicated to "saving the ozone layer."

Thatcher, co-host of the meeting with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), said the ozone layer was at the mercy of chemical changes taking place in the atmosphere.

"Damage already done to the ozone layer will be with us, our children and our grandchildren throughout the 21st century," she added. "Even if all the chemicals which damage the ozone layer were banned tomorrow, ozone depletion would continue for more than a decade."

The ozone layer, which blocks out cancer-causing sun rays, is holed in the stratosphere over the Antarctic and dangerously thinned over the Arctic.

At the conference, at least 20 more nations said they would sign or ratify the 1987 Montreal Protocol on restricting chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) chemicals which destroy ozone. More than 30 nations have already ratified the agreement, which aims to halve use of the chemicals by 1990.

But the British prime minister said: "Our goal must be nothing less than to see all countries sign."

Thatcher, a scientist by training who has zealously taken up environmental causes in the past six months, added: "It is no good some of us acting to solve the problems, while others go on as before. The problems will only be solved by common action."



Margaret Thatcher

In similar vein, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief William Reilly told reporters: "I think we are all in this together. We are all going to have to find ways to collaborate and clear this mess up. It affects us all."

During the conference, China and India asked industrialised nations to create a fund to help developing countries replace CFCs.

On Monday night, Prince Charles, a longtime defender of the environment, called for a ban on CFCs and backed the Third World countries' call for help.

China and India, the world's two most densely populated countries, are embarking on mass production of refrigerators and other domestic appliances and consumer goods containing CFCs.

In addition, the Soviet Union said it could not agree to a complete ban on CFCs until it had more "well-founded" scientific proof they were destroying the ozone layer.

Mexico called for an international aid programme to help the Third World play its part in saving the ozone layer. India called on rich nations to provide technical aid.

"Let someone in this conference think of this as charity. I would like to remind them of the excellent principle of 'polluter pays' adopted in the developed world," Indian Minister of Environment Ziaul Rahman Ansari said.

Developed countries were consuming 100 times more CFCs than Third World nations, he added.

Developing countries urgently needed cash and technology to begin using substitutes for ozone-destroying chemicals, Chinese Environment Commissioner Liu Ming Pu said.

"The developed world's accumulation of a great amount of wealth was accompanied by the pollution and destruction of the environment."

"Now these countries can use past accumulated wealth to manage the environment... such is not the case for the developing countries."

Carbomb kills two; Lebanon blockade tightens

BEIRUT (R) — A car bomb killed two women and injured 20 people in west Beirut Tuesday and Lebanon's rival governments plunged into a fresh dispute over a blockade of militia ports.

The explosion wrecked a dozen cars and sent shards of glass scything along busy streets. Pools of blood covered pavements as rescuers rushed the wounded to hospital, where staff said two of the victims were dead.

The blast, caused by an estimated 10 kilograms of explosives, was in the busy Hamra district, only a block from the American University of Beirut (AUB) hospital.

The bomb was planted on the second day of the sea blockade of seven illegal ports, which shipping sources said was being respected by shipping.

The head of one of Lebanon's

two administrations, army commander Michel Aoun, launched the blockade as part of a campaign to restore government authority and stem the flow of Lebanon's dwindling wealth into militia pockets.

Militias said they would refuse to give up their ports, through which fuel and other basic commodities flow into west Beirut. The seven harbours, scattered along the coast, are used by rightist and leftist forces.

A statement by Aoun's government said convoys of food and provisions would be sent to west Beirut through the museum crossing, the only open route between

the two halves of the divided capital.

The head of the civilian-controlled wing of the Lebanese army General Sami Al Khatib Monday closed a seafront crossing on the green line only a week after it was reopened.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt, tourism and public works minister in Prime Minister Salim Hoss's government, said he had asked Hoss to legalise his militia-controlled Jiyeh port, south of Beirut.

Economists say Lebanon's official revenue dropped by half in 1976-1979, the period when the government lost its hold over air and sea outlets to militia forces.

Political analysts said militias were unlikely to give up their outlets to the sea without a fight, particularly as the illegal ports were the main source of revenue for weapons and wages.



RELIEF CONVOY — Hundred of Soviet trucks carrying food and other supplies to Kabul worked out between the government of President Najibullah and an unidentified leader of the rebel Mujahadeen.

Husseini rejects Israeli notion he represents alternative to PLO

LONDON (Agencies) — A Palestinian activist who held talks with dovish politicians in Israel, said Monday that Israeli leaders were mistaken if they believed he represented an alternative leadership to that of the PLO.

Faisal Al Hussein, on a lecture tour of Britain, met members of Israeli Vice-Prime Minister Shimon Peres's Labour Party last month after being released from an Israeli prison where he was held for 18 months.

The talks were condemned by right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir although the participants, who included members of the Israeli parliament, said they bolstered Arab-Israeli understanding.

"They tried... to talk about me as if I can be an alternative leadership," Hussein said. "I told the Israelis... we, the Palestinians here (in the occupied West Bank and Gaza), we don't want and we can't give you an alternative leadership."

"We can give you from here thousands of martyrs, tens of Nelson Mandelas but don't imagine that you can find between us even one Quisling," he said. Israel has been looking for local Palestinians in the occupied territories to be involved in peace

talks in an attempt to bypass the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"They are trying to delay the peace process through refusing to talk with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people," Hussein said.

Hussein accused Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of attempting to manipulate press coverage of his meetings with the Israelis.

He said Rabin had misled the media by giving the impression Palestinians who attended the talks said they were tired of the 15-month-old uprising in the occupied areas.

"So we decided to go everywhere that we can meet Israelis and talk to them... to tell them this is our position — don't let Mr. Rabin mislead you in this matter," Hussein said.

He said the PLO wanted to start peace negotiations with Shamir "Not because we like him... but we must talk with our enemies."

U.S. conference jeopardised If the State Department refuses to grant visas to three Palestinians for a peace conference in New York it could doom the event and nip budding U.S.

hopes for a new role as Mideast peacemaker, according to a conference organiser.

"This is a time to move, not to reassess and send negative signals," said Peter Weiss, a New York lawyer who is helping put together the conference.

The event, sponsored by Columbia University and four Arab and Jewish organisations, is scheduled at a time that many analysts view as unusually promising for Middle East peace.

It is intended to try to foster a fragile new U.S.-PLO dialogue "and to show the American public that Israelis and Palestinians can talk to each other about peace," Weiss told Reuters in a telephone interview Monday.

At the State Department, spokesman Charles Redman said the government was still reviewing the visa applications from two members of the PLO and a West Bank Palestinian.

The visas were sought for Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and head of the Palestine National Council's Political Committee, Afif Safieh, the PLO's representative in the Netherlands, and Hussein, director of the Arab Studies Centre in Jerusalem.

Shamir reminded of his vain quest for alliance with Nazis

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Jerusalem Post broke a local taboo Tuesday by writing of a 1941 link between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Stern Gang terrorists and Nazi Germany.

The episode, known to historians, is almost never mentioned in Israel which reveres the memory of European Jews, including Shamir's entire family, killed by the Nazis during World War II.

The respected English-language daily, which bitterly opposes Shamir, broke the silence in an editorial blasting "obscene attacks" by the premier and other rightwingers on the leftist Peace Now Movement's contacts with Palestinians.

Noting that Shamir said there would be "No KGB in Israel" to hunt down Peace Now activists, the Post commented: "That might be reassuring, but for the disturbing memory, doubtless shared by MP in this country back in 1941, with the 'final solution' already underway in all but name, sought out German cooperation in the setting up here of a Jewish state on a national and totalitarian basis."

The reference was to the Stern Gang, an underground terrorist group of which Shamir was a leader. It tried to make an alliance with Nazi Germany to oppose British rule in Palestine in exchange for the release of Jews from Nazi hands.

Shamir, who dislikes speaking of the past, once said he was not involved in the abortive alliance with the Nazis because his role in the Stern Gang then was in field operations.

Mainstream Jewish leaders in Palestine condemned the idea of a Nazi alliance. They considered the Sternists fanatics and outcasts and were at that time raising troops for the allies.

The Nazis rejected the plan because it clashed with their bid for support from Arab nationalists.

With the exception of a hostile statement by concentration camp survivors against Shamir when he first took power in 1983, the Israeli press virtually never mentions the episode.

Stern Gang memories caused controversy in January when British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave recalled Shamir's role in the 1944 assassination of Lord Moyne, Britain's minister-resident for the Middle East.

The Jerusalem Post's remarks came in response to attacks on Peace Now, Israel's largest and most influential peace movement.

Shamir questioned the very loyalty of Peace Now activists to the state and said they are "sabotaging Israel's political war, the war for Israel's security" and helping "the most dangerous and extremist of our enemies."

Peace Now members, like all other Israeli citizens, serve in the armed forces and do annual re-

serve duty. Shamir's remarks Sunday triggered a barrage of venomous accusations and fierce counter-attacks.

"At the height of the uprising when there are blood riots and Jews are being murdered, they (Peace Now members) go crawling toward the leaders of the uprising and break a rule that every self-respecting Jew abides, which is to wait for the government's decisions," said Tzahi Hanegbi, a hardline Likud legislator.

Hanegbi was referring to Saturday's campaign by thousands of Peace Now members to drive into the occupied territories and talk peace with Palestinians.

The army sealed the West Bank and turned back activists headed to Arab villages.

Underlying the attacks, however, was Peace Now's controversial decision several months ago to change its stand about the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and call on the government to talk peace with Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Peace Now also favours "territorial compromise." The loosely organised movement does not have membership rosters, and hence has no clear estimate of its popularity, but it turned out thousands of people at a recent protest calling for talks with the PLO.

Lebanese banker to be freed in 24 to 48 hours

NICOSIA (AP) — Prominent Lebanese international banker Roger Tamraz, reported victim of a kidnapping, called his Paris office Tuesday and said: "Tell everyone not to panic. It's finished now. I will be with you in 24 to 48 hours."

A spokesman in Tamraz's Paris office, who declined to be named, said by telephone that Tamraz did not disclose his location.

"Please thank all my friends who offered money or influence in my moment of greatest need. Especially thank the smaller employees and staff who offered their savings to help," Tamraz was quoted as saying.

The spokesman said Tamraz, 48, asked him to tell the press that he had been "in retreat to prepare my case."

The Beirut daily Al Safir reported in its Tuesday edition that Tamraz had called to say that he was "not the victim of a kidnapping operation."

On Monday, a close associate of Tamraz reported he was being held for ransom. He said he believed those holding Tamraz were acting for persons who suffered losses in the recent collapse of Lebanon's second-largest bank, Bank Al Mashreq, which Tamraz headed until December.

Asked Tuesday about the Al Safir report, the associate said: "What does one mean by kidnapping? He is a guest but he is not free to move before he settles certain accounts."

The associate said Monday that Tamraz was seized when he went to a meeting in Chateau, a town in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley Feb. 19.

He said a \$1.5-million payment was made several days later after Tamraz contacted family and friends.

A Beirut paper reported Feb. 24 that the payment was made through a Paris bank and that part of the money was raised by a mortgage on the Paris apartment of Tamraz's estranged wife.

Tamraz was not released after the first payment and a second payment was demanded, the associate said.

Tamraz, a Maronite Catholic, was educated at Cambridge University, England, and the Harvard Business School. He became a well-known investment banker, placing money for wealthy Middle East clients into projects in the West and Middle East.

In 1983 Lebanese President Amin Gemayel appointed Tamraz chairman of partly state-owned Intra Investment Co. which is a major shareholder in the Bank Al Mashreq.

A warrant for Tamraz's arrest pending investigation of the Al Mashreq Bank's affairs was issued by the government in east Beirut which claims to rule the divided country in competition with the civilian government based in west Beirut.

Tamraz fled to west Beirut in January and lived in the seaside Summerland Hotel until shortly before his disappearance.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

ALO readmits Egypt

RABAT (R) — Egypt was readmitted Monday to the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) after a 10-year suspension, organisation officials said. The move was taken at the start in Rabat of the ALO's 17th annual conference, attended by Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Vocational Training Assem Saleh. The ALO conference is discussing problems such as the circulation of manpower between Arab states, particularly since the recent creation of regional groupings like the Arab Cooperation Council and Arab Maghreb Union. Delegates will also discuss the situation of Arab migrant workers in Europe and proposals to set up schools for their children, to be jointly operated by Arab League member states.

157 Italian deputies seek Palestine recognition

ROME (AP) — A motion presented by 157 parliamentarians Monday asked the government to recognise the Palestinian state declared last fall by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has said on several occasions that Italy would not act unilaterally to recognise a Palestinian state. Instead, he said it will take any position on the issue until the European Community is ready to take a unified stance. The 157 deputies who signed the motion represent about a fourth of the 630 members of the Chamber of Deputies and most of the parties in parliament's lower house.

2 Irishmen jailed for 2 years in UAE

KHOR FAKKAN (AP) — Two Irishmen were convicted Monday for kidnapping a five-year-old girl and were given life sentences by a criminal court. But the sentences were reduced to two years' imprisonment because the pair, Gerard Flynn, 25, and Dennis Dennehy, 28, planned "to return the girl to her mother," the court ruled. Flynn and Dennehy have already spent six months in prison in Khor Fakkan in Fujairah, one of the seven states in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), after they were arrested last September heading for the airport with the girl.

Israel holds 'kidnap' caller

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli forces have arrested a Palestinian who allegedly made numerous anonymous telephone calls last week, in which he claimed to be holding a missing Israeli soldier and spelled out demands for his release, a military spokesman said Monday. The spokesman said the suspect, a resident of the Gaza Strip's Mughazi refugee camp, made calls to "several elements," in which he demanded the release of all Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the soldier's freedom.

Former Lebanese president at Harvard

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — Amin Gemayel, former president of Lebanon, has taken a fellowship at Harvard University's Centre for International Affairs, a newspaper reported. Gemayel will participate in seminars with the other 25 fellows at the centre and begin academic work on Lebanon and the Middle East peace process, concentrating on policy alternatives in Lebanon. The Boston Globe said Tuesday. Gemayel is expected to be at Harvard through the remainder of this semester, which ends in May, and possibly through next fall's semester, which ends in December.

King: ACC a turning point

Continued from page 1

the ACC and the Arab Maghreb Union, which converge with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Addressing the opening session of the 17th Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) conference, Duda praised the major changes in the Arab region and described them as serious steps on the path of achieving the long-sought Arab unity.

These steps, he added, are aimed at building Arab economic integration.

Duda added that Arab future warrants that "we all perform our duties and shoulder our responsibilities in a manner that commensurates with the new developments in the world order, such as the formation of world economic blocs which can affect the Arab march."

He called on the Arab Nation to live up to the future challenges and to draw up a unified strategy.

Duda stressed the important role the ALO can play in the planning and preparation for the future, through mobilisa-

tion of all available resources. Duda outlined Jordan's position vis-a-vis Israeli provocations and practices against the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

He pointed out that Jordan had exposed such practices in a detailed report submitted to an International Labour Organisation's (ILO) fact-finding mission. The report, Duda added, demonstrated clearly the severe conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the deteriorating situation, there represented in the confiscation of land and water resources, violation of freedoms and the restrictions imposed on trade unions activities.

Duda called for directing special attention to the agricultural sector in the Arab World in view of its importance in achieving food security. The minister stressed the need for developing the educational process in the Arab World to enable it to cope with the new developments and to meet the needs of the Arab communities in trained manpower.

Waldegrave said Soviet diplomacy in the Middle East was more "positive, moderate and reasonable" than before. He said London supported Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's call for Security Council involvement in preparations for convening a U.N.-sponsored conference, a proposal which he described as similar to that called for by Europe.

The U.S., he said, had not yet come up with a full policy package with regards to the Middle East, and was legitimate in taking its time before coming up with conclusions following consultations between President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

Waldegrave described incursions on the Israeli-Lebanese border as potentially damaging to the peace process. "We believe that incursions across the border into Lebanon and Israel should stop both ways," he said. Commenting on reports that Washington considered the attacks on Israel as potentially damaging to the U.S.-PLO dialogue, Waldegrave said the operations were being carried out to cause embarrassment to Arafat and in order to damage the peace process.

The minister noted that no meeting was scheduled between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:15 Programme on plants
17:30 Out of World
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:15 Cairo News Message
18:45 Arabic series
19:00 Local programme
19:30 Common mistakes
20:00 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Life with Lucy
21:30 Wrestling
22:30 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Musique de Coeur
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 Life with Lucy
21:30 Wrestling
22:30 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme (cont'd.)

PRAYER TIMES

04:35 Fajr
05:52 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:46 Dhuhr
15:06 'Asr

CHURCHES

17:41 Maghreb
18:53 'Asa

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Clouds increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers. Wind will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793344
Dr. Yousef Sammour 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 63522
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Narroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 648945
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Sharaa (—)
Al Shura'a pharmacy (985238)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630241
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 6290963
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 65639091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdul Telephone Repairs 77111
Jordan Television 77111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah 'Aqarawi 987725
Khalifah pharmacy 985417
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381/322
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 643362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisat 66417114
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848945
Al-Muslim Hospital 666127/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66416446
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7711013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7511126
Army, Marka 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)910771
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)747100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian. (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:20 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:20 Cairo (RJ)
10:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:40 Bangkok (RJ)
17:00 Riyadh (RJ)
17:05 Paris (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
17:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
00:20 Baghdad (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:25 Cairo (MS)
12:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
12:15 Baghdad (LN)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
13:45 Kuwait (LN)
14:10 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
15:00 Jeddah (SV)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in US per kg.

Apple 500 / 400
Banana 390 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Broad beans 230 / 180
Cabbage 140 / 100
Carrots 220 / 180
Cauliflower 170 / 120
Cucumbers 420 / 380
Eggplant 240 / 180
Garlic 220 / 200
Grapefruit 340 / 300
Lemon 360 / 300
Lettuce (per one) 140 / 100
Marrow (large) 250 / 220
Marrow (small) 420 / 380
Orange (Shamouti) 400 / 350
Orange (local) 340 / 300
Onion (dry) 220 / 200
Pepper (hot) 640 / 580
Pepper (sweet) 380 / 300
Potato 320 / 260
Spinach 80 / 50
Mandarin 520 / 500
Tomatoes 200 / 150

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:05 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:15 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
11:20 Riyadh (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
19:15 Calcutta (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20:20 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30 Damascus (RJ)
22:40 Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
06:15 Beirut (ME)
06:35 Larnaca, Zurich (SB)
10:20 Geneva, Cairo (MS)
13:15 J

RSS to make use of Turkish experience in tackling problems

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turkish experience in earthquake construction, bio-technology and solar energy is expected to help the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in the near future in tackling some of the problems faced by Jordan in these fields.

A Turkish delegation, representing the Building Research Institute of Scientific and Technical Research Council (Tubitak) agreed with RSS officials to increase cooperation in several scientific and technological fields prior to leaving Jordan Tuesday.

According to the acting director of Tubitak, Alkut Aytem, the institute will be working with the RSS and the Ministry of Planning to prepare a manual for earthquake resistant construction and to improve Jordan's earthquake zone map.

These two factors are considered to be important since Jordan is located on a "very active

fault zone" extending from the Red Sea to Turkey, "and therefore, earthquake design should especially be considered," said Aytem.

Bio-technology was classified by the head scientist of the Department of Biology at Tubitak, Dr. Beyazit Cakaloglu as "one of the most promising technologies and as one of the sciences for the 21st century."

Defined as production by the use of biological material or organisms, bio-technology is "as old as man." While in the past, bio-technology was used to make bread by adding yeast (a micro-organism) to dough, modern bio-technology is now being used to modify chromosomes for genetic technology.

"Several health and agricultural problems can be solved using this technology," said Cakaloglu, further explaining that bio-technology could screen agricultural products for pathogenic materials or plant diseases, and could con-

sequently stop the production of a particular item.

To implement this technology in Jordan, where it does not exist to date, Tubitak agreed to implement a programme with the RSS in animal tissue culture, production of industrial enzyme, hybridoma technology and recombinant DNA technology.

In addition, plans are underway to organise training courses, seminars and workshops for Jordanian officials at the RSS, and for exploratory visits to Turkey.

Speaking on behalf of the head of Department of Mechanical and Energy Systems Dr. Kudret Selcuk, Aytem said that Tubitak is working on producing electrical energy from solar energy and on more efficient use of solar heat in industry and food drying.

During the delegation's five-day trip to Jordan, Selcuk discussed matters for future cooperation and observed Jordan's solar simulator, built in cooperation with the German government.



His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein inspect the restoration work being carried out at the royal cemetery in Baghdad during King Hussein's last visit to Iraq (Petra photo)

Restoration work completed on royal cemetery in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Restoration work on the Royal Cemetery in Baghdad, set up in 1936, has been completed and, according to a report by the Gulf News Agency, the project cost nearly one million Iraqi dinars.

The agency said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had ordered the restoration work to be carried out together with other affiliated plans to improve the cemetery and adjoining streets.

The cemetery has rightly become one of the main landmarks of the Iraqi capital according to the news agency correspondent who visited the scene recently.

The restoration involved the reburial of the late King Faisal II of Iraq side by side with his father the late King Ghazi, according to the agency.

It said that the floor is covered with marble stone brought from Italy and the tombs have been decorated with Islamic inscriptions.

The cemetery, which also houses the remains of other members of the royal family, is decorated by three huge crystal chandeliers and the walls are covered with decorations.

According to the agency the cemetery is surrounded by a vast garden planted with trees and flowers.

Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Abdullah Fadel said that the restoration work was done in respect of those who had shouldered great responsibility in serving their nation.

"The men buried in the cemetery are closely related to the Prophet Mohammad and his descendants whom we all deeply revere and respect," the minister said.

During his last visit to Baghdad His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, called at the cemetery where they recited verses of the Holy Quran and inspected restoration work which was still underway.

Seminar calls for stations to monitor pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on environmental pollution by chemical substances held at the University of Jordan Tuesday recommended that concerned authorities in Jordan set up pollution-monitoring stations, especially in Aqaba and Zarqa, in cooperation with West German institutions.

The seminar emphasised the need to introduce awareness programmes in schools, to launch media campaigns to spread information about means to preserve and protect the environment and to impose fines on violators of environment regulations.

The seminar called for advanced research programmes re-

lated to pollution, plans to examine vehicles to ensure that they send out the least possible fumes and other air pollutants, consider operating electric tram cars to commute travellers between Amman and Zarqa to reduce the number of cars and buses on the road and cut down on the amount of fumes they produce.

The recommendations called for the introduction of a new means for garbage and other waste disposal and imposing new regulations on the use of pesticides and other chemical products.

It said that petrol used in vehicles should be clean of lead so as to cause the least possible damage to the atmosphere.

GFJW president speaks on eve of women's day

Bashir: Federation gives assistance to women in several Arab countries

AMMAN (J.T.) — Promoting the role of women in Jordanian society and extending assistance to women in Lebanon, Iraq, Sudan and Palestine are among the numerous activities initiated and followed up in earnest by the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), according to the federation's president Haifa Al Bashir.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of Jordan's celebration of the International Women's Day Wednesday, Mrs. Bashir said that the federation has been participating in pan-Arab meetings concerning women and is involved in a number of activities designed to promote the status of women in the Kingdom and raise their social and cultural standards.

In reviewing the federation's activities and programmes, Mrs. Bashir said that the GFJW took part in the Arab Women's Federation's 10th meeting held in Baghdad in 1986, which discussed means of enhancing the role of women in social and economic development.

The GFJW took part in another meeting to discuss women's affairs held in Amman in 1987, Mrs. Bashir added.

She said that the GFJW has been backing the struggle of women in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Sudan and has extended financial and in-kind assistance to women in the occupied Arab territories, Somalia, Eritrea,

Djibouti and other parts of the Arab World.

Last month, the GFJW sent medicines to women unions in Eritrea to help them to counter malaria, and typhoid, diseases which have been spreading in the country, Mrs. Bashir noted.

She said the federation is currently developing a training centre it has been operating in Jordan to involve women in Jordanian folkloric activities and is continuing actively in helping women to find jobs.

In addition to this, the GFJW is in permanent contact with working women and even foreign women living in the Kingdom in a bid to bolster relations and activities in all areas of concern for women.

The federation, she added, is constantly involved in activities and programmes related to social, cultural, political, and economic fields and providing training to local women, and it continues to coordinate work of women's unions and maintaining links with foreign women's federations, Mrs. Bashir added.

The International Women's

Day will be marked in Jordan with lectures, seminars and other cultural events to be organised by women's unions.

The events are designed to highlight Jordanian women's contributions to the social and economic development of the Kingdom over the years.

Ceremony to honour Jordanian women

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Development has announced that it will hold a ceremony at the Palace of Culture of the Al Hussein Youth City to honour veteran Jordanian women.

Those to be honoured at the ceremony, according to the announcement, are women who had been involved in major activities in child care.

The announcement said that efforts are continuing, in cooperation with women's unions in the Kingdom, to promote the role of women in child-care activities and other social functions, and said that the ministry, through its provincial centres, has been launching training programmes for women working in these fields.

In previous years the Ministry held ceremonies on the International Women's Day during which it honoured West Bank women for their part in enhancing the resistance against the Israeli occupation, women working in scientific research and women with outstanding achievements.



Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh Tuesday addresses the opening session of a meeting on flour mills in the Near East and East Africa (Petra photo)

Tarawneh outlines Jordan's bid to increase wheat production

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Wheat is a strategic commodity to the majority of nations around the world, particularly those of the Middle East and East Africa, Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh said here Tuesday.

The minister, who was addressing the opening session of a three-day meeting on flour mills in the Near East and East Africa, spoke in detail about Jordan's endeavours to increase wheat production and facilities as well as incentives offered to investors in food production in the Kingdom.

Jordan now has three silos for storing wheat produced in the Kingdom or imported from other countries, as well as for other types of cereals in demand in the local market, the minister noted.

He said that these silos have an

overall storage capacity of 335,000 tonnes needed as reserve in the face of fluctuations in wheat production and an unstable world market.

Tarawneh said that production of flour in Jordan is done through six flour mills owned by the private sector in addition to a flour mill owned and operated by the Ministry of Supply, which has a daily capacity of 400 tonnes.

The meeting, which has been organised by the United States Wheat Associates (USWA) through the Ministry of Supply, is being attended by delegates from 11 countries in addition to Jordan.

The USWA last month organised a three-day symposium here to discuss "grain storage and handling" with the participation of several countries in the Near

East region and the Arab World. Working papers discussed at that symposium covered questions of storing cereals in warehouses, the role of silos and means of transporting the grain.

Upon the conclusion of the symposium, Ministry of Supply's Secretary General Abdullah Al Hawamdeh said that the capacity of Jordan's silos is to be raised to 500,000 tonnes, once the current expansion projects have been completed.

Delegates attending the present meeting came from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, North Yemen, Cyprus, Kenya and Turkey in addition to Jordan.

Hawamdeh and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth were present at the opening session.



Qasem receives Vietnamese envoy

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Tuesday received a copy of the credentials of the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Jordan Pham Quoc Bao (Petra photo)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI RECEIVES CABLES: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday received a cable of thanks from the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak thanking him for his congratulatory cable on the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council. Lawzi also received a reply cable from speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, Abdul Qader Qaddoura, thanking him for his congratulatory cable on his re-election as speaker of the council. Qaddoura wished the Jordanian Senate every success. (Petra)

MAJALI TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE: Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali holds a press conference at the PSD headquarters Wednesday during which he will talk about the seizure of the largest quantity of hashish, ever seized in Jordan. The quantity was designed to be sent outside Jordan. (Petra)

JD 184,000 IN LOANS FOR FARMERS: The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) branch in Ma'an last year extended JD 184,000 in loans to farmers in Ma'an Governorate, for drilling artesian wells, carrying out irrigation projects and purchasing fodder for livestock. The ACC branch also gave loans amounting to JD 52,000 to farmers in the governorate during the last two months of 1988. (Petra)

ABUSE ON CHILD FEEDING: A four month training course began Tuesday on child-feeding and prevention from contagious diseases for 45 ladies from Shobak sub-district at the Maqarieh Social Development Society in Shobak. Participants will listen to lectures about child-feeding, means of prevention from contagious diseases, and the mental, physical and psychological development of children. (Petra)

GERMAN PROFESSOR VISITS QOU: Professor Doctor (Emeritus) Horst Mohle, the ex-Rector of the University of Leipzig in East Germany, is currently visiting Al Quds Open University on a one-week consultancy mission from 2-8 March. His mission involves acquainting QOU staff with the distance education systems adopted in East Germany. Mohle has also delivered three lectures, especially prepared for his current visit, which were attended by QOU staff and guests from other Jordanian universities. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ibn Zaid will inaugurate an art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists on Wednesday at the art gallery of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. (J.T.)

EXHIBITION OF CLEANING EQUIPMENT: Munir Sukhian Company Tuesday held an exhibition of cleaning products at the Marriott Hotel in Amman, with a number of businessmen and owners of cleaning companies attending.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Bolls and Munira Al Tunisiyya at Al Qadisiyya College.
- * An exhibition of paintings for children by Titiana Rifai and Karoline Ayoub at Haya Arts Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Rula Shouqari at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawat at Alfa Art Gallery.
- * A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Stevogt and Corinath at the Jordan National Gallery.
- * Amman International Book Exhibition which includes various scientific, literary, religious and children's books at the International Motor Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizqullah at Al Wastiti Gallery.
- * A computer exhibition at the Yarmouk University.
- * An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A video film on the French Revolution entitled "Marie-Antoinette" at the French Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- * A lecture, in Arabic, by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Haarmann entitled "Nation and Fatherland in Medieval Christianity and Islam" at Mu'ta University — 12:00 noon.

Informatics committee begins talks in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The informatics committee of the Arab Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electricity opened its first meeting in Amman Tuesday to discuss a working programme for 1989 and 1990.

The programme entails the creation of a data bank on electric power in the Arab World and the preparation of an initial study on a plan for linking the computer systems of Arab electricity boards, a project intended to facilitate the flow of information among Arab states and to benefit from the Arabat programmes related to electricity and affiliated fields.

Addressing the opening session of the three-day meeting was Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafah who reviewed current Arab efforts through the union to promote the role of electricity generation and distribution in the Arab World, and the rationalisation of power and energy consumption in Arab

countries.

Arafah emphasised the importance of the informatics committee which he said can achieve that goal through modern techniques and proper utilisation of technology.

"Arab informatics systems can be made to provide a better and more effective service if they are linked together in a manner that can ensure a wider benefit of information," Arafah added.

The meeting will discuss means of gathering information related to power generation in the Arab World, plans for interconnection of grids, and an exchange of information and publications on electricity.

The delegates, who represent Jordan, Syria, Bahrain and Egypt, will also work out a plan for unifying technical terms and specifications for electric power produced in the Arab World.



University of Jordan's Faculty of Nursing Tuesday holds a seminar on the role of nurses in dealing with multi-handicapped cases.

Khatib calls for improving status of handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on the role of nurses in dealing with multi-handicapped cases was held at the nursing faculty of the University of Jordan Wednesday.

Among the speakers was Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who highlighted

the role of the community and the responsibility of the families of the handicapped in improving the status of the handicapped children, through cooperation with specialised rehabilitation centres.

Khatib outlined GUVS's activities to promote the voluntary and

rehabilitation centres in the country through continued financial and in-kind assistance.

He also spoke about Al Amal Centre for the multi-handicapped persons which now caters for 40 cases, and urged all concerned authorities to intensify and coordinate efforts to provide better

services to the handicapped. Other speakers included Dr. Samira Baban, director of the Amman Cerebral Palsy Centre; Dr. Jamil Simadi, director of the special education programme at the University of Jordan and Dr. Amal Bandak assistant professor at the University's Nursing Faculty.

Jordan Times

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Wise statesmanship

BRITISH Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave is a refreshing phenomenon; he belongs to a rare breed of statesmen who have the conviction of their words. It is not a particular word or expression uttered by Mr. Waldegrave in Jordan or Israel that prompts one to make this judgement. Rather it is the streak of morality, ethics and legitimacy which permeated his political demeanour regarding the Palestinian conflict that warranted such a sweeping description.

To be sure one would be worried about the political future of Minister Waldegrave in view of the fact that the Israeli web of intrigues and conspiracies have proven its potency against all those who dare speak up against Israel's corrupt policies. The Arab World has still vivid memories of former U.S. Senators Charles Percy and William Fulbright who were sacrificed at the altar of truth and true national interests of their own country at the hands of Zionist forces working within continental U.S.A. Yet Arabs find consolation in the fact that contrary to the cases of Messers Percy and Fulbright and the scores of others who stood up tall and brave but alone against Israeli tyranny, Mr. Waldegrave happily has the solid backing of the whole government of Britain. This is indeed what distinguishes the government of Margaret Thatcher from all recent governments in Washington.

It goes without saying that the Arab World is not naive enough to ever think that the courageous words of Britain through Mr. Waldegrave would bring prompt solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict. On their own, expressions of wise policies are not likely to succeed in bending or changing the Israeli intransigence. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's views and perspectives suffer from age-old complexes that even tanks and bullets would not succeed in amending.

Yet if all the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council can be persuaded to match Great Britain's stand on the issues of war and peace in the Middle East, one can begin to see a glimmer of hope for the region. In fact the whole Arab-Israeli conflict would not have festered for so many decades had the big powers enjoyed the calibre of outspokenness on the side of legitimacy and common sense that the government of Margaret Thatcher has been manifesting of late. Lack of fortitude and clarity in the positions of other powerful nations have led Israel astray for so long and in the process heightened the price of the Arab-Israeli conflict. As Minister Waldegrave elucidated in his address before the members of the Jordan-British Society in Amman Monday, the future generations of Arabs might not show the flexibility that present generations have been entertaining. Mr. Waldegrave recalled the words of one Palestinian youth that he encountered in Nablus who told him: "Tell the Israelis to hurry up and negotiate with me for my sons and daughters would have hardened so much that they would refuse what I accept!" This is not to mention the new generations of weaponry that are projected to join the fray if effective solutions are not swiftly found to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such ominous developments would be on the conscience of the big powers who opted to stay aloof from the heat of the Middle East conflict. Wise statesmanship would call for the emulation of London's unequivocal stand. Otherwise all parties, including the spectators stand to lose, and to lose a lot.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper on Tuesday commented on the Jordanian medals conferred on the martyrs of the Iraqi armed forces who fell in defence of the Arab homeland. The paper said that the King's gesture reflects the feelings of all Jordanians who backed the Iraqi people and armed forces in their struggle against the Iranian invasion. The conferring of medals on Iraqi martyrs by King Hussein demonstrates Jordan's continued commitment to support the Iraqi people who continue to defend the eastern flank of the Arab Nation, the paper added. In conferring the medals, the monarch, backed by all the Jordanian people, hopes that the Iraqis will listen to the calls for peace and reason and to build ties of understanding and friendship with the Arab World so that the whole region can live in peace and dedicate its efforts to development, the paper noted. The paper said that it is time that the Iranian regime opted to establish genuine peace based on mutual respect and non-interference in other countries' affairs, specially since Iraq still extends its hand of peace and continues to work to achieve that end.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily calls on the government to reduce to a minimum the number of Jordanian officials taking part in conferences that are held abroad now and then. Salah Abdul Samad says that reducing the number of delegates abroad means cutting down on expenses and saving a lot of hard currency of which the country is in bad need under the present circumstances. The writer says that reducing the number of these officials representing Jordan abroad will be in line with the on-going government efforts to rationalise and control spending. In conferences that are not of great significance, the writer suggests, it is enough to have Jordan's ambassador attending the deliberations and relaying the outcome to the government in Amman. The writer says that cutting down on expenses in the form of air travel, hotels and per diems for the officials is bound to help the country save funds needed for more important endeavours.

Al Dustour daily newspaper tackled a visit here by British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave who is on a tour of the region to have a close hand examination of the situation. The paper said that Waldegrave heard King Hussein explaining Jordan's position with regard to the Palestine question and current efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference. He also heard the King voicing appreciation of Britain's position with regard to the Middle East question and its continued support for the projected conference so that a lasting peace can be achieved, the paper noted. Indeed, the series of statements coming out from London over the past few months are welcomed and appreciated by the Arab Nation because they all urged Israel to put an end to its occupation of Arab land and open a dialogue with the Palestinians to reach a final settlement based on justice, the paper pointed out.

Palestinians, Israelis and Soviet factor

By Abba Eban

RECENT HEADLINES about the Middle East have been dominated by the Soviet Union, Egypt and the Palestinians, but it cannot be long before the United States and Israel clarify their attitude and intention. Warnings against premature action have a common-sense sound, but it is factually demonstrable that all major outbursts of violence in this area in the past half-century have coincided with diplomatic immobility. Procrastination and suspense have scored no victories — and avoided no dangers.

Until the U.S. and Israel come together in action rather than in postmortem, we should at least combat two illusions: first, the illusion that there can be a peace process without substantive Soviet involvement; secondly, the illusion that Israel or the United States can prevent the Palestinians from appointing their own negotiating team without regard to veto attempts from any quarter.

Recent Soviet activity in the Middle East is not merely a tactical exploitation of a diplomatic vacuum. It reflects an authentic tradition. Israelis whose thinking includes a historic dimension must admit that Soviet intervention in their destiny, for good or for ill, has been the general rule, that Soviet self-exclusion has been exceptional and that the general balance need not inspire panic.

At the dawn of modern Israel's history, four decades ago, the Soviet Union was the most constant advocate of partition idea without which Israel would not have come into existence as a legitimate reality. The USSR, unlike the United States, did not deviate from this support at a critical time. It sponsored Israel's membership in the United Nations and consequently in 30 other international agencies.

It joined the United States in constructing the system of armistice agreements which crystallised the only boundaries for which Israel has ever obtained international recognition. In Israel's war of independence, Soviet arms saved embattled Israel from collapse during an American embargo. The Soviet Union joined the United States in all the ceasefire agreements which ended all the wars. It supported Resolution 242, Resolution 338, the first to establish the duty of "negotiation," was drafted in Moscow.

The Soviet Union was a joint chairman, with the United States, of the Middle East Peace Conference in Geneva which gave birth

and legitimacy to the disengagement agreements with Egypt and Syria. The USSR has an international status, equal to that of the United States, as one of the powers to whom the members of the U.N., including Israel, have given "primary responsibility for international peace and security." The Soviet Union has a status in this region which is defined by its power, interests and proximity and which does not depend on American and Israeli consent.

The fact that, for most of the last few decades, the Soviet Union has supported Arab positions and not those of Israel is a painful part, but not the whole, of the story. Even in the worst periods of confrontation, the USSR never denied Israel's sovereignty and never accepted fundamentalist Arab doctrine about Israel as an "illegitimate intruder."

In times of armed conflict in the area, it has regarded non-confrontation with the United States as a brake on the deployment of its own power. Israel's resentment at the long years of Soviet hostility is tempered by two contrary impulses: first, there is the memory of Soviet support in the crucial days of struggle. No country forgets those who went with it "in the wilderness, in the land unsown." Second, there are signs that the Soviet Union regrets some policies of its previous leaderships, including the break in relations with Israel, and is cautiously moving towards a more pragmatic stance.

The fact that some relatively favourable Soviet policies both in the 1940s and today were dictated by self-interest, not by altruism, does not change the picture. My experience teaches me that most governments make their decisions in the name of self-interest and explain their decisions in the name of moral purity.

If anyone in Washington or elsewhere asks if Soviet involvement in a peace process is "desirable," the answer lies in a corollary question: "Is Soviet involvement not inevitable? If an exclusively American mediation was feasible in the Camp David period, this is not proof that it is realistic today. Egypt and Jordan are no longer interested in an anti-Soviet crusade. In the 1970s, Kissinger and Carter were seen in the Arab World as occupying centrist positions between Israel and the Arabs. Exclusive American mediation was therefore acceptable to both sides.

Today, the United States is seen, quite accurately, as an ally of Israel. We Israelis, in contem-

plating the United States, should understand that we have gained an ally and lost a unilateral mediator. It is not a bad exchange, but the consequence is that there is not going to be a repeat performance of the Kissinger shuttle or Camp David.

Some Israelis and Americans speak of the Middle East in terms of "American influence" and "Soviet penetration." This subjective semantic is not heard anywhere else. The idea of U.S.-Soviet convergence in regional conflicts has been vindicated in many other regions and is likely to find strong support in the Western alliance.

A superpower whose presence in a peace process is desired by Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the PLO — and is not contested by Israel — is not going to be absent from the creation of peace, nor will it be a mere figure-head in a ceremonial negotiation. Washington and Jerusalem will have to take the Soviet factor into serious account. This does not mean that Moscow will dominate the scene. Concerted and active American and Israeli diplomacy with European backing can secure a viable balance.

gaining; the assertion of a right to 100 per cent of the territory and sovereignty in every part of the area of the former Palestine mandate; and firm denial of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The ideology developed by authoritative Palestinian leaders and spokesmen in recent weeks includes the following new elements: "In the past we did not believe in the idea of coexistence between two states. We now stand for a two-state solution — an Arab Palestine and the Jewish state, Israel, which we recognise as a state in the region." The PLO will strive for a comprehensive settlement among the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute, including a Palestine state, Israel, and other neighbours in the framework of an international peace conference on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

In other sections of the statements made in Algiers, Geneva, Stockholm and in individual declarations by the Palestinian spokesmen, they declare that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship "shall be based on a confederation in accordance with the free choice of both peoples." The latest declaration made by a

to achieve a favourable reaction from the United States. This was achieved. The White House diagnosed "an evolution of Palestinian thinking towards pragmatic and realistic positions." On the other hand, the Israeli reaction was the surprise of the decade. Some leaders of both parties gave the impression that they would have preferred a continuation of virulent Palestinian rhetoric, since this would have kept the United States in a one-sided dialogue with Israel and would have deferred discussion of territorial negotiation.

On the other hand, the opinion polls and the media reveal a mature public appreciation of the new opportunities and a realistic understanding that the PLO alone is a viable partner for negotiation. The Israeli nation is more enlightened and realistic than the leaders of either major party.

It is one thing to press the Palestinian leaders for constant and additional proof of sincerity. After all, it is they who by their past actions and statements have created a mountainous wall of scepticism. But to deny that the rhetorical change has any substantive weight at all would be irresponsible. How can one exalt the importance of rhetoric when it is violent and extremist, and assert that it has no importance when it comes down to earth and reflects a sober sense of reality?

How can we ignore semantic changes which expose those who make them to physical danger of the kind which no Israeli politician has ever incurred? Is it important that there is not a single government in the world, however friendly to Israel, which accepts such a frivolous reaction to the most tangential change ever made in a statement of Arab attitudes?

But the most cogent indictment of our official responses to Arab developments lies in the realm of self-righteousness. The underlying assumption has been that all eyes and ears should be fixed on Palestinian statements, with no parallel scrutiny of what is happening on the Israeli side. Forward movement in the enemy camp has been paralleled by backward movement in our own. They now agree to share territory and sovereignty with us. Our official position is that we claim 100 per cent of both.

They speak of peace, recognition, negotiation and acceptance of 242. Shamir denies that 242 has any relevant application to the

Palestinian-Jordanian sector, thus blatantly violating the clear pledge by Menachem Begin in the Camp David agreement! And he refuses for all eternity to negotiate with the internationally recognised Palestinian representatives, or to admit that there is any room in any part of "Eretz Yisrael" for any juridical entity except Israel.

In plain words, the Israeli government and the PLO have passed each other on a moving escalator. The Khartoum negatives are being shed by the Palestinians, and are being taken over lock, stock and barrel in the policy of rhetoric of our prime minister's office and the foreign ministry.

While the U.S. government has reacted to the PLO moves in a more balanced and lucid way than our own, it has not fully used the new opportunities. Once the United States took the dramatic step of accepting a Palestinian dialogue, it is hard to see the sense of maintaining it on an artificially low level and frequency. With all respect to the discussion of violent episodes, the real value of the American role would lie in a detailed exploration of potential Palestinian attitudes on the structure and spirit of a peace settlement.

The United States did no service to Israel by abstaining from this exploration for so long. Once Washington took its basic decision to enter the dialogue, withdrawal from it now would have very grave effects. It would generate despair of any possibility of peace, remove the restraining influence of America from the Middle Eastern scene, advance the cause of radicalism and extremism on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli barricade. It would also contribute to the approach of a war which Israel would certainly win but which would leave behind the kind of havoc which only those who know about the new weapons systems can appreciate.

The U.S. decision to hold a dialogue with the PLO was not taken for the sake of helping Israel, but the negative effects of an American withdrawal would be so serious that they deserve the most careful and cool analysis. That Jewish organisations in the West refused to work for the wreckage of the U.S.-PLO dialogue gives us comforting assurance that they do not confuse solidarity with recklessness — The Jerusalem Post.

"... the Israeli government and the PLO have passed each other on a moving escalator. The Khartoum negatives are being shed by the Palestinians, and are being taken over lock, stock and barrel in the policy and rhetoric of our prime minister's office and the foreign ministry."

Israel has come a long way, perhaps a longer way than the United States, since the days when it believed and hoped that there would be no Soviet presence or activity in the Middle East. But a prolonged situation in which Soviet activity is more intense than that of the United States does not serve any Middle Eastern interest. Further passage of time without a definition of United States attitudes and some indication of a possible American role can only compound a tension that is already too explosive for international comfort.

Three months have passed since the PLO leadership began to revise its rhetoric and ideology, and the process is still in motion. The starting point was a refusal to recognise Israel as a state in the Middle East; a policy of no peace, no recognition, no negotiation, no territorial bar-

high Palestinian leader states that "neither the Israeli nor the Palestinian people can destroy each other and therefore the realistic solution is that we live side by side and walk the path of peace."

On the strength of the words alone, this is a more far-reaching transformation of ideology than anything that has occurred in any Arab community. There is more specific commitment on the central issues of recognition, negotiation and peace than has been expressed by any Arab authority, except Egypt. In recent statements, the PLO spokesmen tend to respond to Israeli sensitivities by denying the principle of "stages," asserting that the idea of "return" can be solved by compensation, and stressing that the new language proceeds from "a strategic decision."

The immediate PLO aim was

Amazon issue brings nationalist backlash in Brazil

By Stephen Powell
Reuter

SAO PAULO — Brazil's government, media and public are reacting with strong nationalist feelings to intense foreign criticism over the destruction of Amazon forests.

Brazilians are letting rip with robust invective against foreigners — especially the United States — who criticise the country's stewardship of Amazonia.

The international concern stems largely from scientists' fears that the widespread burning of Amazon forests could contribute to disastrous disruption of the planet's climate.

"Demagoguery of the Americans and Europeans. They can go to the devil," the governor of Sao Paulo state, Orestes Quercia, said in a comment typical of many.

The army minister, General Leonidas Pires Gonçalves, charged in February that the international pressures were being orchestrated by "false ecologists."

The general said the objective was "internationalisation of the whole of the Amazon."

The military have long feared that foreigners wish to wrest control of the vast mineral-rich region away from Brazil.

Political analysts say this fear is at the root of the government's staunch refusal to entertain any idea of so-called debt-for-nature swaps, in which foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for pledges to protect the environment.

Brazil is the Third World's biggest debtor, owing \$115 billion.

Debt-for-nature swaps have been advocated for years by environmental groups and have taken place in several countries.

The novelist said in the newspaper O Estado de Sao Paulo that the Dutch were "old pirates of the seven seas, who always revealed themselves to be the worst colonisers in the world."

She then tackled the United States.

"The Americans, my God what right do they have to censure the ecological treatment given to nature?" she asked.

"Who was it who invented and used the most potent exterminating agent conceived by the human mind: The atomic bomb?"

"And who used napalm and

other chemical agents to destroy forests in the Vietnam war?"

The government, too, has strongly pushed the idea that developed nations are worse environmental offenders than Brazil.

"They are the worst plunderers. They discharge their wastes into the atmosphere, damaging the ozone layer, and they still stockpile nuclear arms which can destroy humanity two or three times over," Sarney said in Brasilia on February 27.

Brazilian press criticism of the United States reached a peak at the end of February, after reports from Tokyo that President Bush had asked Japanese authorities not to lend money to Brazil to build a road through to Peru.

This project is given high priority by Brazil, which says it will

provide the country with a road link to the Pacific and cut the trade route to Japan by 12,000 kilometres.

Leading environmentalists such as Thomas Lovejoy of Washington's Smithsonian Institution say the road would be the beginning of the end for Amazonia.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Brasilia said he could not confirm that Bush had made this request concerning the road. But the reports made frontpage headlines in Brazil.

Western governments have also taken up the idea and are now dangling before Brazil the carrot of debt reduction, in exchange for better protection of the Amazon.

The Brazilians have bluntly rejected the idea.

"There does not exist any international money which can buy one square meter of Brazilian Amazonian soil," President Jose Sarney said in February.

There is effectively no dialogue at present between Brazil and the developed nations on the Amazon question.

The government said Sarney had decided not to go to a meeting in the Hague on March 11 on atmospheric pollution.

Official sources said the foreign ministry and the military had persuaded Sarney not to attend because his presence could bring further criticism of Brazil on environmental issues.

Brasilia's strategy is to strengthen the eight-nation Amazon pact organisation and to press the argument that the region's problems are the exclusive concern of

Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela.

Day after day the Brazilian press now carries comment from leading citizens condemning foreign intervention in Amazonia.

"It is a frenzy. The Brazilian press is running amok and so is the Brazilian government," said one Western diplomat who added that he had never seen such unanimity in the country on any issue.

One of Brazil's best-known novelists, Rachel de Queiroz, recently wrote a blistering attack on the United States and the Netherlands, two countries where there is strong concern over the rapid destruction of the world's greatest rainforest.

The respected Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper carried a page

one report that pressures from abroad over Amazonia could push Brazil's military into developing nuclear weapons.

Brazil's growing ecological movement is seeking to dampen the nationalist indignation in the country.

Despite the difficulties, Brazilian environmentalists say they are still battering away trying to persuade the government that there is a problem.

Brazil's veteran environmental campaigner, Jose Lutzenberger, was asked recently if he sometimes felt like giving up the struggle.

He replied: "Suppose you find yourself about 30 kilometres off the coast in shark-infested waters after a shipwreck. Your chances of reaching the shore are practically nil. do you stop swimming?"

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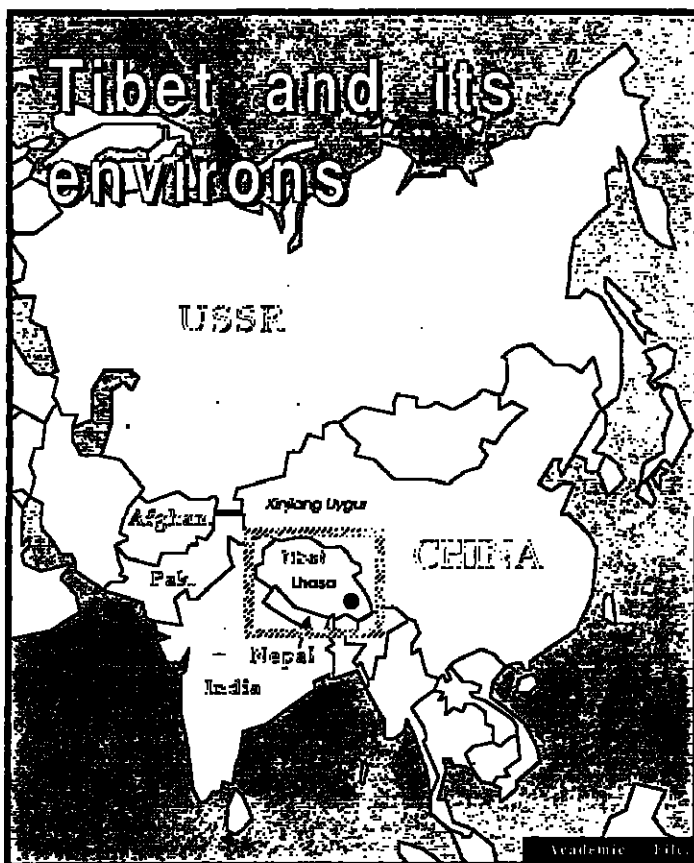
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Devout Buddhist pilgrims praying in front of the Jokhang Temple. Pilgrims are of all ages, all classes and all sexes. Holding their hands above their heads is part of the ritual,

culminating in prostration, when the pilgrims lie on the ground as a part of their prayer ritual.



the reality of mass starvation caused by Peking's drive to collectivise farming and wrote a long memorandum to Mao Zedong appealing for help.

Abuses

The present reopening of hundreds of monasteries and temples is to a large extent due to the Panchen Lama's efforts. The Chinese are now pumping funds for the restoration of key Tibetan monuments, destroyed during the Cultural Revolution from 1966. Carpenters and masons were busy working in the Jokhang, up until the recent wave of unrest. The Jokhang, Tibet's holiest shrine, has been the scene of recent shootings and the site for some of the worst abuses inflicted on the Tibetans.

A temporary headquarters for the fanatic Red Guard factions, the Jokhang suffered heavy shelling and damage throughout the Chinese occupation, culminating in its use as a pigsty by the Chinese. It was however at least preserved — a fate not shared by most of Tibet's monasteries. Before the Cultural Revolution there were some 4,000 monasteries — afterwards, a mere handful in comparison, 15 according to eyewitness estimates.

Lhasa, called Throne of the Gods by devout Tibetans, was reduced to rubble as anything "from the past, ancient, traditional" was systematically destroyed. Castles, historic buildings and monasteries were dismantled often by hand, and scriptures burned by revolutionary zealots who wanted to build a new era.

As is so often the case, the past lives on in the present and the debate over who controls Tibet, who holds the reins of power and over the key issue of independence goes on. In the search for compromise and the attempts at living together, the struggle for daily life plods on as never before, as economic and social realities add yet another cause for concern in Tibet.

The holy Jokhang still shows an astonishing display of religious devotion, of reverence, of pilgrims as it always did throughout Tibet's history: spinning prayer wheels, rosary beads, ornaments, prayer flags, the eternal hum of chanting voices and the overwhelming prostrations of ordinary people continue to this day, with a difference — the Jokhang



Buddhist monks in a philosophical discussion on the ground level of the holiest of Tibet's shrines, the Jokhang Temple, Lhasa. Note the splendid gold ornaments of the roof — Buddhist symbols including the Wheel of Dharma in centre.

has become once again the scene of some of the bloodiest and most savage confrontations in recent months.

It is against such a background of extremes — of religious devotion and the hardfisted iron rule of the Chinese that the Panchen Lama, as so many other sympathisers of Tibet's plight, fought for peace. In the past year the Panchen Lama voiced growing frustration with both hardline Chinese officials who saw force as the only way to maintain order in Tibet and the Tibetan militants who increasingly saw force as the only way to ensure the freedoms he tried to obtain. — Academic File.

Tibet fights for its identity

Despite the harshness of the Chinese crackdown on Tibet, the landlocked region is in the midst of a religious and political ferment, as the age-old ideology of peaceful resistance confronts the youthful warriors of the Tibetan rights movement.

By Miriam Bianco

LONDON — The recent death of the 50-year-old "Living Buddha," the Panchen Lama, in Tibet marks the end of an era. For the Chinese now have no official Tibetan religious leader to negotiate with so that, in the words of one Western diplomat (his death) "might cause complications in the recognition process."

Reflecting his importance among the Chinese authorities — the Panchen Lama was vice-chairman of the National People's Congress (China's Parliament), and as such the most senior Tibetan in the Chinese government. The official Xinhua news agency described him as "a great patriot, noted statesman, devoted friend of the Communist

Party of China and outstanding leader of Tibetan Buddhism."

His sudden death throws into confusion China's effort to woo the exiled Dalai Lama, deprives them of a credible ally in their sticky relations with the region and forces them to address the delicate question of who, if anybody, should succeed him?

These are questions that are not easy to answer, particularly in the tense and ominous atmosphere of Tibet's most revered religious shrine, the Jokhang in Lhasa. Demonstrations at the shrine have become a regular feature; there have been some 60 deaths during the past 16 months.

International Human Rights Day (10 December) witnessed 16 casualties as police fired haphazardly into a crowd of protestors and monks.

Threatened unity

The most recent demonstration in January, by students and teachers, called for official permission to stage the protests but did not include independence among the demands. It is a criminal offence to make demands that "threaten the unity of motherland." The 200 to 300 participants in the rallies persuaded other demonstrators not to join in lest the police started shooting again.

It was perhaps appropriate that the Panchen Lama's final speech before his death contained one of his fiercest criticisms ever of China. He said that the benefits of Tibet's development during the last 30 years of communism had been outweighed by the price that had been paid. His life and death however seem to cruelly confirm the twists and fates of Tibet's own recent history.

Selected at the age of three as the tenth incarnation of a 16th century monk, his position was

not formally approved by his superiors in Lhasa until after the communist revolution in China and, even then, after heavy hand pressure from Peking. When he moved to take up official residence in Shigatse, the seat of the Panchen Lama in 1952, he was escorted there by the People's Liberation Army.

In a country that thrives on symbolism it is interesting to note that his death in Shigatse occurred at the very spot where the mummified remains of his predecessors are preserved. Furthermore, he died of a heart attack after dedicating a new memorial hall to his predecessors, replacing one destroyed during the Cultural Revolution.

Unlike his superior the Dalai Lama who fled into exile in Dharamsala in northern India in 1959, the Panchen Lama never quite broke with China and was in fact regarded by some as tainted by collaboration.

However, he refused to denounce the Dalai Lama many

times and he was deeply respected by Tibetans — a week before his death, 30,000 residents reportedly turned out when he opened the Great Stupa at the Pashu Lhunpo Lamasery.

His life was a parody of the ups and downs of China's own rapport with Tibet, for the Panchen Lama fell into an uneasy alliance with the Chinese seeking to control Tibet. After taking over from the Dalai Lama in 1959 as chairman of the Chinese-appointed ruling committee, he won favour among his countrymen by pressing Peking to restore sacred buildings damaged by Chinese troops in the 1959 rebellion.

He then went to Peking convinced of Chinese goodwill but was rewarded with a resounding rebuff.

On his return Chinese troops surrounded his Tasilhumpo monastery, seizing some 4,000 monks, executing several and sending many of the rest to labour camps. Shocked by this show of raw force he awoke to

Brazil: A fight for their rights

People power helped Brazilian farmers win compensation when, in 1986, they were flooded out by one of Brazil's hundreds of new dams. Even the landless were promised land. But two years on, the dam operators stand accused of failing to stick to their agreements.

By John Magrath

ITAPARICA, Brazil — When Agimiro da Sousa, a 64-year-old Brazilian farmer, joined a demonstration against a dam in December 1986, he did not know that he was about to make history. All he knew was that his tenuous livelihood as a desperately poor sharecropper was about to be swept away by the waters of one of Brazil's most grandiose industrial projects, the Itaparica dam on the Sao Francisco River.

For nine years the 40,000 people whose lands were to be flooded had negotiated in vain to be resettled and given new irrigated land. They were largely ignored by Itaparica's builders, the government-controlled Sao Francisco Valley Hydro-Electric Company (CHESF).

In December 1986, in desperation, da Sousa and 600 other men and women occupied the nearly completed dam site. For a tense week they outlasted riot police and stopped all construction work.

The occupation, says da Sousa, brought together people who had nothing left to lose, and people who stood to lose everything. Their peaceful protest aroused international concern. The World Bank insisted CHESF postpone the flooding. Under pressure, CHESF signed an agreement with the rural workers' representatives: the company would irrigate 20,000 hectares of land by July this year; build 5,000 new houses, with schools and health posts; and provide each family with a salary until the land was productive.

World Bank loan

The World Bank gave a loan of \$132 million with the Brazilian government providing the rest of the total resettlement costs of \$303 million.

It was probably an unprecedented victory for "people power."

Today the land is flooded, and da Sousa and the other residents have moved into "agrovillas," 118 entirely new villages carved out of the bush.

However, they still have no land to farm. Without irrigation the land is poor but their promised plots have not been demarcated, cleared or irrigated.

Jamario Da Oliveira, his agrovilla's representative in the local

Syndicate of Rural Workers, said: "We were not against development. Everyone needs electricity. But we were against development which takes no account of people. It was a great victory. We have never heard anywhere else of landless people being promised land, homeless people given homes, and the wageless a salary. But until our plots are producing it can only be half a victory. So we must keep up our pressure on CHESF."

Da Sousa agrees. For him victory was even sweeter because the agreement effectively created a land reform: all the people who worked the land received land, and not just the people who owned it.

Da Sousa and his three sons were all landless sharecroppers, giving half of what they grew to their "patron"...

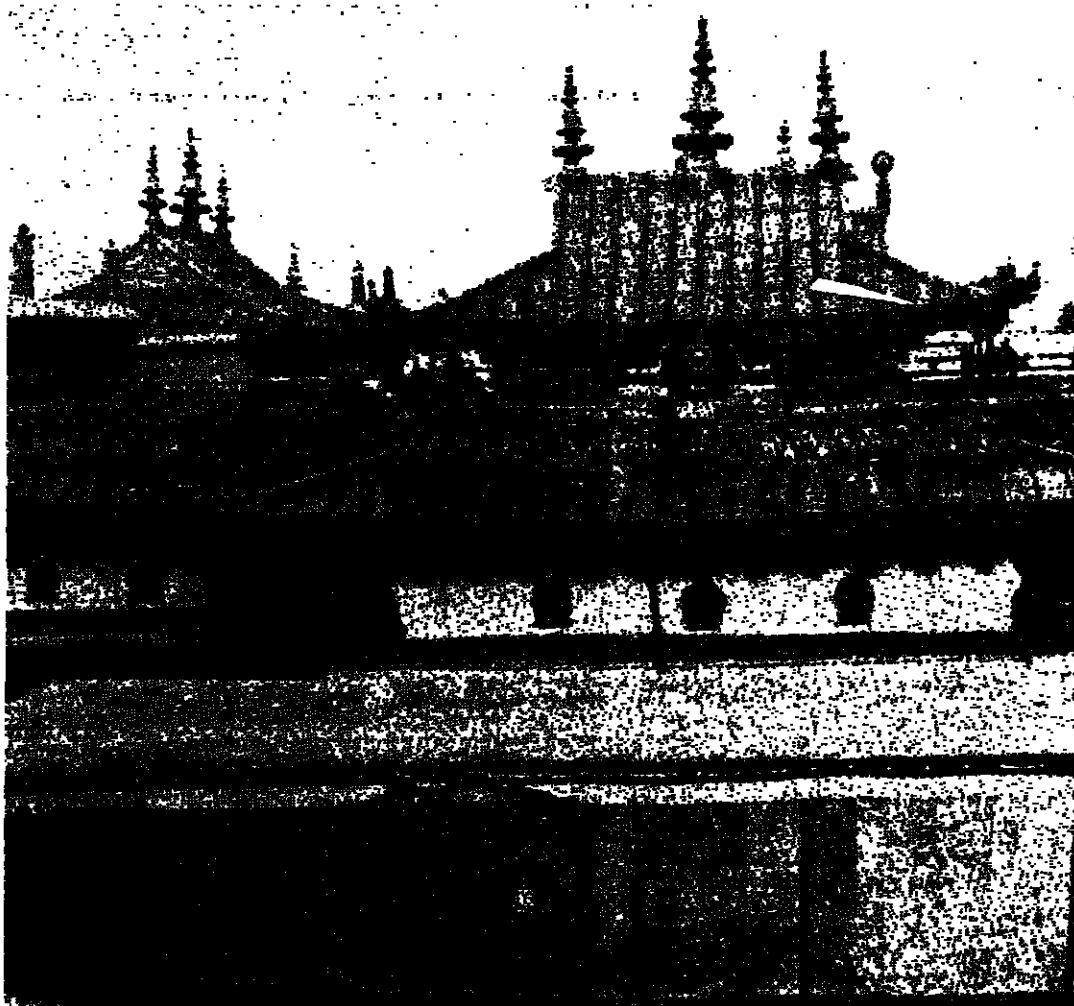
Now, two years on, pointing to his new house, and his carefully tended garden with a crop of huge watermelons, Agimiro is a proud man: "Look at this!" he laughs. "It feels like I've sold out to a politician before election time! It was worth a week looking down the barrel of a gun!"

But a garden, and the small salary provided by CHESF, are hardly enough to provide for family needs. Each family is entitled to between 1.5 and 6 hectares of irrigated land. Now it is extremely unlikely that even the more accessible agrovillas will receive irrigation for another 12 months and the more outlying areas may have to wait two or even three years.

Farmers determined

Still buoyed up by their success at the occupation, and with a growing confidence in the strength of their organisation, the farmers are determined to push CHESF at every turn to keep its promises. But ironically, the completion of the dams means that they can no longer use the same effective tactics. Boredom, frustration and anger are common feelings.

Raimundo Da Silva, who once had a thriving market garden growing tomatoes, onions, melons, lemons and coconuts, says: "We used to work all the time. We used to start work at 4 or 5 a.m. Here we still get up at 4 or 5 a.m. but there's nothing to do."



"Look at this! I feel like I've sold out to a politician before election time." — ex-sharecropper Agimiro de Sousa celebrates a new

house and garden and promise of his own land at Itaparica, Brazil. But will it be kept? Photo credit: John Magrath

The new communities' sense of isolation feeds the boredom and frustration. The agrovillas are in the middle of thick forest and scrub. Transport is poor and the infrequent buses often get stuck in the mud on the atrocious dirt roads. The CHESF-built schools still lack many desks, chairs and tables.

CHESF says that individual plots will be demarcated within two or three months. But the farmers say that the back-breaking work of clearing the scrub is CHESF's responsibility; preferably the company can do it mechanically or it can pay them to do it by hand. So far CHESF shows no sign of doing

either, and the farmers suspect the company is waiting to see if frustration will induce farmers to do the work on the cheap.

CHESF is hastily building pumping stations and canals to carry irrigation water to the agrovillas, under the watchful eyes of rural workers' representatives. But the work is behind schedule. Until forced by world opinion, CHESF had no plans and no budget to resettle people. So everything was done at the last minute. Companies had to be selected to do the work, and the irrigation equipment had to be bought from abroad.

The World Bank is nervous of

its reputation and officials are fully aware of the need to monitor progress closely to ensure that CHESF sticks to its side of the bargain. Officials say that if resettlement is successful it will reaffirm the Bank's reputation as an environmentally and socially responsive institution. CHESF says resettlement has already been a success, and should serve as a model for future "great projects."

The people of the agrovillas remain suspicious. To them success — their right to live as farmers once again — is not yet assured — Panos

Barcelona cleans up, builds for the 1992 Olympics

By Anya Schiffrin
Reuters

BARCELONA — From its mediaeval quarter to the 20th-century industrial sprawl on its outskirts, Barcelona is changing its face for the 1992 Olympic games.

Spain's second city, a Mediterranean port and the centre of catalan regional industry, needs not just new sports facilities but the infrastructure to cope with an onslaught of visitors.

It hopes the improvements can be put to good use after 1992. As well as putting up new buildings, local authorities are encouraging a clean-up in dilapidated parts of the old city centre in a scheme dubbed "pasa't guapa" or "make it beautiful."

Barcelona is famed for its array of architectural styles including the elegant ramblas, a long tree-lined avenue dotted with flower stalls which inhabitants call the "most beautiful street in the world."

But it has also suffered the inner-city decay common to many big European cities.

"The projects will radically change the image of Barcelona," said Antoni Lagostera of the Municipal Institute of Urbanisation (IMPU), which with the national government, regional government and private business is funding proposed developments.

"We are really using 1992 as a pretext for a lot of new construction," Lagostera told Reuters.

Projects include the Olympic village, which will house 15,000 athletes, recovering 4 kilometres of previously unused land by the sea and creating a new park and residential neighbourhood for after the Olympics.

A new ring road is to connect Olympic facilities, and port authorities are planning a redevelopment of the port area, including a shopping arcade, new docks for passenger ships and an

area for water sports. Total costs for the Olympic village, road and work on the port are estimated at around \$1.18 billion.

Other plans include an extension to the airport and an underground railway line to the main area where the Olympic events will be staged.

The "make it beautiful" scheme hopes to put a shine on buildings in the old quarter, a working class, low-income neighbourhood which is also home to the port's red light district and the centre of a thriving heroin trade.

"The city authorities are offering subsidies for cleaning facades, paying part of the costs for bar owners wanting to modernise old-fashioned toilets, and asking residents to replace broken window frames and decorate their balconies with flowers."

Shop-owners are being asked to replace unsightly signs and old awnings.

The town hall says it has already had 19,000 inquiries over its special "make it beautiful" telephone line for the scheme, financed partly by the authorities and partly by private business.

"By 1992 we will have a renewed old city, a fantastic quarter," said Joan Clos, city councillor for the old quarter.

"We will be improving the quality of the urban life and that will be sufficient to involve the private sector in producing homes which are a little better than what we have now but which won't be much more expensive than the average rents in the area."

Subsidies

The city authorities are offer-

ing subsidies for cleaning facades, paying part of the costs for bar owners wanting to modernise old-fashioned toilets, and asking residents to replace broken window frames and decorate their balconies with flowers.

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A flower company sold nearly a million trays of flowers for small balconies at a subsidised price of \$4 each last year.

But the projects are not without problems.

Miguel Abad, chairman of the Barcelona Olympic Committee, said sports facilities would all be finished on time.

But on some other plans, the question of how to divide funding between the regional and national governments and private business has not yet been sorted out.

"If the funding of the construction is not resolved by April 1989 it is more than likely that we will be off schedule for 1992," said Barcelona Mayor Pasqual Maragall.

Another problem is the fears of residents who believe smothering up the old city could drive up the rents and push ordinary people out.

"They say they want to rejuvenate our neighbourhood but prices have already gone up and this is a working class neighbourhood where people have few resources," complained Josep Garcia, President of the Neighbourhoods Association of Raval, in the heart of the old city.

"If they are going to expel people from Raval that is unacceptable — we will rise up, take to the streets and confront the city hall. Because we have one thing they don't, the respect of the community."

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Soviet officials pledge to cooperate closely with other oil producers

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is prepared to cooperate with other oil producers in curbing output to support world oil prices, Soviet officials said Monday.

On Friday the official TASS news agency reported that the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, would reduce output in the first half of 1989.

Yevgeny Karchevsky, an oil industry ministry official, said the five per cent cut in hard currency exports amounted to about 100,000 barrels daily.

The cuts, marking the first time that Moscow has taken measures to support OPEC, do not affect oil shipped to the Soviet Union's East Bloc allies.

Oil Industry Minister Vasili Dinkov told reporters at a news conference Monday the Soviet Union would pursue its contacts with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other non-OPEC producers to maintain stable oil prices.

Grant Margulov, a senior official at the government's Bureau for the Fuel and Power Industries, added at the news conference that the Soviet Union

shared the concerns of other producers.

"We are prepared to engage in close cooperation," Margulov said. "We have taken this decision for the first half of the year. The future will show whether we will maintain this sort of cooperation."

The Soviet Union sent observers to a meeting of non-OPEC experts in London last month where six nations — Egypt, Oman, China, North Yemen, Mexico, and Malaysia — agreed to cut exports by five per cent to support OPEC's efforts to buoy world prices.

Reductions would not apply either to existing contracts or to those involving Eastern Europe, which tended to be carried out over long periods of time.

He said oil production for 1988 stood at 624 million tonnes, the same as in the previous year, and plans called for production to be

maintained at about the same level.

Soviet economists, he said, viewed a price of about \$20 a barrel as sufficient to make production viable at all known deposits.

"With higher prices, we could start looking at more remote areas where high investment on infrastructure would be required," he said.

Margulov acknowledged, however, that equipment and operating procedures had to undergo considerable change in regions where conditions were difficult.

"In remote areas, we need fundamental change, otherwise production will decline," he said.

Pravda denounced Gosagroprom as bureaucratic monster

Meanwhile, Pravda Monday denounced the super-ministry Gosagroprom as a bureaucratic monster whose policies were "tormenting" Soviet farmers, indicating it could be axed at Communist Party talks next week on agriculture.

Six ministries covering everything from farming to food processing and tractor repairs were merged into one super-ministry in 1985 as part of Mikhail Gorbachev's attempts to streamline agrarian bureaucracy.

But the Communist Party daily said the attempt had failed.

"We didn't destroy bureaucracy, but to the contrary strengthened it," Pravda complained.

"We have created an impenetrable bastion of bureaucracy in the countryside."

"It seems that Gosagroprom is not going to part with the accumulation of absurdities which have been torturing the farming villages for decades," it added.

In the meantime, Pravda said, there has been no improvement in the Soviet Union's food supply, which Gorbachev recently said was the country's most important task.

"Cheerless shops, a rationing system in many regions of the country, one-third of the harvest rotting, these are the realities," the article, written by Vladimir Somov, deputy chief of Pravda's agricultural department, said.

The acknowledgement in the party's official newspaper that Gosagroprom was a failure indicated it could get the ax when the Communist Party Central Committee meets to discuss agrarian reforms on March 15-16.

Pravda quoted a recent district party resolution from the Ukraine as calling for Gosagroprom to be dismantled, and it said many farmers wanted less meddling in their duties.

"Give us resources and don't interfere with our work" this is what we hear more and more often from rural leaders."

Pravda said last month that a "resolute reconstruction" of economic relations and management in the agro-industrial complex was one issue in a three-point programme to be considered at the Central Committee's plenary session.

But the Communist Party's ruling Politburo last week failed to agree on an agenda for the plenum, indicating a serious split among Soviet leaders on the future of the farm system.

The split had already become obvious from recent public remarks of conservative agriculture chief Yegor Ligachev, who openly challenged Gorbachev's reforms by pledging to maintain farm-making collective and state farms.

For many months Gorbachev has been calling for a complete reorganisation of Soviet agriculture in an apparent reversal of the long-standing collective farm policy.

He has given strong backing to recently introduced schemes to lease land to peasants for up to 50 years and complained the farm management structure is outdated and bureaucratic.

Pravda said Gosagroprom oversees about two million people at collective and state farms, in addition to 200,000 workers at regional levels and 4,500 employees in Moscow.

"Experts have counted that orders from the chairman of Gosagroprom reaches collective farms through 32 levels, each of which signs and duplicates it. The best idea is unlikely to come through this bureaucratic density without losing its force" it noted.

The prices of farm machinery, fertilizer and materials, meanwhile, are shooting up, services and repairs are getting worse, and government purchase prices for agricultural produce remain unjustly low, Pravda said.

"Practically all the surplus grain is being taken away from state and collective farms, as in the notorious years of the surplus appropriation system," it said, referring to economic policies during the 1918-21 civil war.

As a better way of organising farming, Pravda named an example from the Tula region, 200 kilometres south of Moscow, which Gorbachev also has praised as exemplary.

There, state and collective farms have formed a voluntary association to create joint services and managerial bodies, replacing Gosagroprom and assigning many tasks to cooperatives.

Expert analyses food supplies

WASHINGTON (AP) — No doubt that last year's yield-shriving drought in North Africa had much to do with the sharp decline in world grain supplies, but an U.S. Agriculture Department economist says that U.S. domestic farm policy also played an important role.

Frederic Surls of the department's Economic Research Service said last summer's drought "abruptly changed the world grain situation" after a decade of surplus and low prices to a period of tight supplies and rising prices.

"Part of the drop in world stocks over the last two years was intentional," he said. "Production consistently exceeded consumption through most of the 1980s. Two years ago, world and U.S. stocks reached a record, both in total and in relation to use. A major concern at that time was to balance supply and use by stimulating consumption and discouraging production."

As part of the answer, the United States took large amounts of cropland from production. Wheat farmers, for example, had to idle 27.5 per cent of their base acreage for both the 1987 and 1988 crops in order to qualify for government supports.

Larger reductions also applied to corn and other "coarse" grains. The conservation reserve programme, aimed at idling up to 45 million acres (18 million hectares) of fragile cropland by the end of 1990, also took huge bites.

Mainly as a result of these government actions and lower prices, there was a 14 per cent drop in the acreage planted to wheat and coarse grains between 1986 and 1988, Surls said in the March issue of Agricultural Outlook magazine.

"At the same time, low world prices discouraged production in other exporting countries, particularly Argentina, Australia and Canada," he said. "So competitor production also levelled off, and foreign stocks, which were near a record at the end of 1986-87, began to drop during 1987-88."

Surls said that at this point there was "an additional and dramatic role" by the weather. "In 1987, a poor monsoon in Asia sharply lowered world rice stocks," he said. "Record drought in North Africa in 1988 was responsible for a sharp draw-down of wheat and coarse grain stocks."

But Surls added: "There were no serious crop setbacks in most of the rest of the world and foreign grain consumption increased despite tighter exporter supplies."

World grain stocks at the end of the 1988-89 season are expected to be down 30 per cent from a year ago to 279 million tonnes, the lowest in more than a decade. Most of the decline is in the United States, which held an average of 34 per cent of the world's total between 1977 and 1987.

Just two years ago, the United States' grain inventory was a record 204 million tonnes, or 45 per cent of the world's total. By the end of this year, the U.S. will hold only 74 million tonnes, or 27 per cent of the total. Foreign stocks are down, too, but their decline has been much smaller.

Surls said the current situation in some ways is similar to 1972-73. But that was when the Soviet Union came into the U.S. market in a big way, and the drop in stockpiles was due to exports, not production shortfalls.

"The dramatic growth of consumption and depletion of world stocks (in the early 1970s) created widespread pessimism about the world's ability to feed itself," he said. "Projections of long-term chronic shortages and higher prices became common."

But grain production surged back, inventories grew again, and real prices "resumed their long-term decline," Surls said. Attention then returned to the excess capacity of U.S. and world agriculture.

Saudis express interest in buying Irish refinery

DUBLIN (R) — Saudi Arabians have expressed interest in buying Ireland's only oil refinery, already the subject of talks with a Nigerian group, an energy department spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The 2.7 million-tonne-a-year capacity refinery at Whitegate in Cork Harbour and an adjoining storage depot are valued at around \$200 million.

"Energy Minister Michael Smith believes the more competition to buy Whitegate, the better the outcome for the state," the spokeswoman said.

The Nigerian proposal to take over Whitegate and the 1.2-million-tonne capacity Whiddy island storage depot was first mooted in 1987.

The energy department spokeswoman said: "Approaches have been made by a number of interested parties in the international oil market including some operating out of Saudi Arabia."

"A Nigerian consortium, involving Japanese, French and Italian interests, is still involved in talks. Negotiations are all at a preliminary stage," she added.

Kuwait awards Mitsubishi \$1 billion power contract

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has awarded the Japanese Mitsubishi Company a new project to construct a power station to supply Kuwait with electricity starting in 1993.

The 304-million-dinar (\$1 billion) contract was signed by Kuwait's Electricity and Water Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al Raqba with the company representatives in Kuwait Monday.

The Kuwait News Agency quoted Raqba as saying after signing the contract the station

would have a total capacity of 2400 megawatt to meet Kuwaiti development plans until the year 2000.

Raqba said the station would supply the new city of Sabiya — a development scheme on the edge of the former Iran-Iraq warfront, where Kuwait is planning to move its university.

The Kuwaiti cabinet recently approved plans to build the city which will cost several billion dollars and link it to the capital by a causeway across Kuwait bay.

U.S. said preparing new world debt plan

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Treasury Department is preparing a plan to encourage commercial banks to forgive part of the debt owed to them by underdeveloped countries, the Washington Post said Tuesday.

The plan is a response to new concern about debt problems in Latin America which arose even before recent austerity-related riots in Venezuela, the paper said.

It is essentially an extension of the plan proposed by Secretary of State James Baker when he was former President Ronald Reagan's treasury secretary.

But the new plan would emphasise forgiving debt rather than encouraging banks to

approve new loans to indebted countries, although new lending might also be encouraged.

Commercial banks would be urged to swap part of the debt owed to them by developing countries for the countries' bonds.

Banks did not respond enthusiastically to such a swap plan for Mexico in 1987 but treasury officials are leaning toward using International Monetary Fund and World Bank resources to make the countries' bonds more attractive to the banks, the newspaper said.

It said details were not clear because the Treasury Department was still developing the plan.

Bundesbank signals halt to rises in interest rates

FRANKFURT (R) — West German monetary authorities Tuesday signalled a halt to a recent sharp rise in interest rates in a move apparently designed to calm jittery financial markets.

The Bundesbank said it would inject new funds into the domestic money market at 5.8 per cent from Wednesday in an agreement lasting 35 days.

That was 0.2 percentage points below its Lombard rate — an emergency funding facility from the central bank to commercial banks — and well below the 6.5 per cent peak for overnight funds last week.

It was the first time since Jan. 11 that the Bundesbank had set a new fixed-rate tender for a securities repurchase (Repo) agreement, its main instrument for steering the money market and short-term interest rates. The Jan. 11 pact was for 28 days at five per cent.

Traders said the move had defused concern that the central bank was about to squeeze credit further in its drive to fight inflation and dampen consumer spending.

"The reaction was positive," said one money market dealer. "It was a relief and a sign that interest rates have peaked."

The move triggered a sharp rise in the dollar as currency traders

switched funds out of the Deutschmark, but the recently depressed West German share market failed to respond to the prospect of steadier interest rates.

The cost of day-to-day funds in the money market did, however, retreat.

Call money slipped to 5.85 per cent after the tender news, from 5.9 Monday and last week's highs of 6.5 per cent. The fixed 5.8 per cent Repo rate was sharply lower than the average 6.425 per cent allocated on a 35-day pact last week.

Ulrich Hombrecht, economist at Westdeutsche Landesbank-Girozentrale, said the Bundesbank move appeared aimed at calming nervous markets after lasting speculation that the Bundesbank would raise its six per cent Lombard rate.

"It is a clear sign we cannot reckon with a rate rise in the foreseeable future," he said. "The Bundesbank wants to wait and see how money growth reacts to the measures taken so far."

The Bundesbank raised key interest rates by half a percentage point on Jan. 20, bringing the discount rate to four per cent and the Lombard rate to six per cent. Four weeks earlier it raised the Lombard rate from five to 5.5 per cent.

Report outlines inflation in industrial countries

WASHINGTON (R) — The inflation rate in industrial nations rose for the second year in a row in 1988, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said in a report.

The agency said the 1988 inflation rate in the world's industrial nations was 3.3 per cent, up from 2.9 per cent in 1987 but still well below the 1970-1985 average annual rate of 7.8 per cent.

Inflation rates increased in the United States (4.0 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent in 1987), West Germany (1.2 per cent, compared with 0.3 per cent), and Japan (0.7 per cent, compared with 0.0 per cent).

Inflation rates declined in France (2.7 per cent, compared with 3.3 per cent in 1987) and Canada (4.0 per cent, compared

with 4.4 per cent). Annual data were unavailable for Italy and the United Kingdom, IMF said. It said 1988 inflation rates had been running ahead of the 1987 pace in both countries.

Inflation rates in other nations recording an increase in 1988 were: Iceland, 24.7 per cent; New Zealand, 10.5 per cent; Sweden, 5.8 per cent; Denmark, 4.6 per cent; Austria, 1.9 per cent and Switzerland, 1.9 per cent and the Netherlands, 0.8 per cent.

Inflation rates in nations recording decreases were: Norway, 6.7 per cent; Spain, 4.8 per cent and Belgium, 1.2 per cent.

Annual data were unavailable for Australia, Finland, Ireland and Luxembourg.

Eastern suspends most operations, lays off about 5,000 employees

MIAMI (R) — Eastern Airlines, fighting a losing battle to keep even a skeleton fleet flying in the face of a crippling strike, has halted nearly all of its flights and laid off more than 5,000 non-union workers.

Eastern officials blamed the cutbacks on the airline's 3,400 unionised pilots, who they accused in a federal lawsuit of mounting an illegal walkout in sympathy with a three-day-old machinists strike.

"Eastern is reducing the airline starting immediately," spokesman Robin Matell told reporters. "We cannot afford this kind of financial drain."

Matell said Eastern, which operated Monday at less than 10 per cent of its normal schedule of 1,000 daily flights, would continue only its profitable northeast shuttle and three weekly round-

trip flights between Miami, Argentina and Chile. The layoffs reduce its active work force to 8,000 employees.

The action was Eastern's most dramatic admission of failure since its 8,500 mechanics and baggage handlers went on strike Saturday in a dispute over the airline's demands for \$125 million in wage concessions. Nearly all of Eastern's pilots and flight attendants refused to cross the machinists' picket lines.

"You can't run an airline without pilots," said Matell, adding that the airline considered the reductions temporary.

Financial analysts said the cutbacks bring the Texas Air Corp subsidiary a step closer to bankruptcy, an option Eastern officials insist is not under consideration. Before the strike, Eastern was the seventh largest U.S. air-

line.

Fallout from Eastern's labour dispute could spread to other major airlines as the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) has ordered its 41,000 member-pilots to begin an industry-wide slowdown.

A federal judge in Miami scheduled a hearing for Wednesday to consider Eastern's request for a court order forcing its pilots to return to work.

Eastern officials, convinced they can break the strike if enough pilots cross the picket lines, have accused the pilots union of conducting an illegal strike aimed at destroying the 60-year-old airline.

But pilots union leaders said their walkout was legal and they pledged to continue supporting the striking machinists.

Eastern has lost \$1 billion over the past decade.

Mercedes unveils new sports car, hopes to improve flagging image

GENEVA (R) — West German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz, losing sales in its most important markets, Monday unveiled a sports car which it hopes will reestablish its reputation as a leader in technology and design.

The two-seater convertible SL made its debut to the press in Geneva ahead of the prestigious 59th Geneva International Motor Show which opens March 9.

Powered by a choice of three-litre six-cylinder engines or a five-

litre V8, the new SL is packed with the latest technological gimmicks. Prices start at around \$68,000.

It has an automatic roll-over bar stored behind the seats. When the car's computer senses that an accident is about to happen, the roll-over bar is automatically triggered.

"Within 0.3 seconds — the time it takes to blink — the roll-over bar self-activates and locks into an upright position to

protect the occupants," Mercedes said.

The roll-over bar, which is hidden to improve the car's looks, can also be raised at the touch of a button.

The suspension is also controlled by the computer, changing the degree of firmness depending on road conditions. If the road is straight the suspension softens, if the car senses a curve it stiffens. When the car exceeds 75 miles per hour (120 kph) it is automatically lowered.

Mercedes, a subsidiary of West Germany's largest company, Daimler-Benz A.G., has been making SL sports cars since the 1954 debut of the so-called "Gull Wing".

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Bird flutters on court

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts (AP) — Basketball star Larry Bird began a critical week of practices by scrimmaging for 45 minutes with his Boston Celtics' teammates Monday.

He seemed rusty, tired and at least several weeks away from playing in a National Basketball Association game.

Bird, sidelined since he had bone spurs removed from both heels Nov. 19, took part in all the drills during the one-hour, 45-minute practice and then shot baskets for about 15 minutes after practice.

With their next two games at home against Chicago Wednesday night and Denver Sunday afternoon, the Celtics play to take advantage of the tight schedule to practice on their days off.

"It's an opportunity to get Larry involved," Boston coach Jimmy Rodgers said. "At least we've got some back-to-back practices to look at."

The star forward first practiced with his teammates Feb. 27 and complained afterward that his right heel hurt him. It was better than following day, but he didn't practice with the team then.

"I have no idea," Rodgers said Monday when asked to estimate the earliest Bird might return to action. "If he feels real good (Tuesday), then we'll see how he feels Wednesday."

The sooner Bird gets back into game condition, the better for the Celtics, especially with Washington trying to unseat them for the final Eastern conference playoff berth.

Boston is 28-30, two games ahead of Washington, 25-31. Rodgers said the Celtics prefer to make the playoffs, where they have a slim chance of winning the NBA title, rather than missing them and getting a high draft choice.

"Once you get there (to the

playoffs) anything can happen," he said.

The improvement of Bird's physical condition — his stamina and his feet — and his response to practices and consecutive days are more important now than shaking off the rust of nearly four months without playing a game, Rodgers said.

At a news conference the day he performed the surgery, Dr. Arnold Scheller, the Celtics' team physician, said Bird was expected to be sidelined 3½ to 4 months. It's still possible for Bird to return to mid-March, officials say.

Boston guard Brian Shaw said he thought Bird might play in "probably two weeks."

"When he comes back, he's still not going to have the mobility he's used to," Shaw said. "He's going to have to make adjustments. Some things that he's not going to be able to do physically, he's going to have to make up for with his thinking. I think he's up for that challenge."

Rookie forward Ronnie Grandison, matched against Bird during the full-court, fast-paced scrimmage, said he saw an improvement during the past week.

"The jumping looks a little tough for him. The spring doesn't seem to be there," Grandison said. "But he's running up and down the floor well and it's tougher to get around him on defense than it was last week."

"He made a few good moves," Grandison added. "I think he was running lanes pretty well. ... a couple of times I had to catch up with him."

But as the scrimmage progressed, Bird seemed to slow down. After the workout, he finished last twice in two running drills against five teammates. He's clearly not ready for the quick tempo of an NBA game.



Continued interest: Carl Lewis keeps in regular contact lawyer he has hired to monitor proceedings in Toronto.

Lewis hires lawyer

TORONTO (R) — American Olympic champion Carl Lewis has retained a Toronto lawyer to represent him at the Canadian government inquiry into drug use in amateur sport.

Timothy Danson said in an interview Monday that he was attending the hearings to keep Lewis advised of the testimony during the ongoing athletics portion of the inquiry.

Danson also said that Lewis would be willing to provide testimony for the commission.

Danson does not hold official standing at the inquiry, which would allow him to cross examine witnesses, including Johnson, who has yet to testify.

But Danson said if he is satisfied that lawyers "ask the right questions" he would probably not seek standing.

Danson said he has kept Lewis's agent, Joe Douglas, and Los Angeles lawyer, David Greiffinger, apprised of Francis's testimony and had spoken to Lewis last week.

"Carl called me from his car phone while having lunch at a fast food place in Houston Friday to see what was happening here," Danson said.

Of Arctic sleds and aeroplanes

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A plane carrying a television crew planning to cover the Iditarod trail sled dog race crashed just after taking off from Rainy Pass, Alaska, Monday on the third day of the grueling race.

The single-engine Cessna 185, chartered by an Anchorage television station to cover the race, didn't get enough altitude and struck a snow bank. None of the three people aboard were seriously injured.

Rick Swenson, the only four-time Iditarod winner, and Susan Butcher, who has won the last two races, were 13 minutes apart heading into Rohn Roadhouse.

Swenson led a pack of four teams into the checkpoint where many mushers take a required 24-hour layover.

The brutal winds that buffeted mushers and their dogs over the weekend died down, but the trail was icy and hard on dogs' feet.

The field of mushers numbered 47 Monday evening. Two racers had dropped out since the first day.

The winner this year will get \$50,000 of the \$250,000 purse.

Most of the Iditarod Mushers are from Alaska, but the race has attracted entrants from Montana, Minnesota, Wyoming, New York, and even France and Japan.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Energy is high, traffic unmanageable and emotional balance needed. Conversation flows easily, but confusion arises when concrete ideas are pushed aside in favor of emotional concerns.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Lovers may be in a rocky relationship. Work toward a better relationship with siblings. Stay on an even pace and consolidate energy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Plans are revised much to your liking. Companionship with friends is appreciated. Having more fun would be a tonic for your overworked constitution.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Favorable financial news is a lift out of a financial black hole. It is a great day. You may have to deal with a disagreeable problem.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Avoid mixing in other people's hassles. You can get in a bad mood when you don't get your own way.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21): Good nutrition and exercise will benefit your entire life. Creative skills are getting rusty from lack of interest. Keep all receipts and warranties.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Get expert help for a new project that is stalled. The projected financial picture may appear better than it really is. Re-examine budgets.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A little tale has you ready to scream. You can attribute a decline in social contacts to your own recruiting efforts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Reservations for a cultural event must be made early. Sign up for special courses that will help expand your career potential.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Refuse to dwell on negative feelings. Organize a party for family members, and find an unusual location for dinner plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Goals that are a mental picture to-day could be a reality tomorrow. Your career progressively moves ahead, and you get the rewards.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Your enthusiasm and friendliness are people motivators. You have outgrown your space and can look forward to a change.

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus

ACROSS

- 1 Asterisk
- 5 Phases
- 10 Phase
- 14 Ostle
- 15 Alas, native
- 16 Heap
- 17 Noncupative
- 18 Cowboy item
- 19 Old church
- 20 Sport
- 21 Poetic time
- 22 Youngsters
- 23 Afternoon
- 24 Hubbub
- 25 Heavens
- 26 Pertinent
- 27 Tablecloth and sheets
- 28 Sailor
- 29 Czar's name
- 30 Locales
- 31 Selze
- 32 Fragrance
- 33 Gist
- 34 Sublease
- 35 Bay of Biscay
- 36 Rule
- 37 Demarcus is here, abate
- 38 Old style
- 39 FBI's city
- 40 Night prowler
- 41 Toadies
- 42 Central line
- 43 Scoundrel
- 44 Cake baker
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- 46 Actress
- 47 Bursty
- 48 Windy
- 49 Balled
- 50 Blatant
- 51 Regions
- 52 Robt.

DOWN

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- 3 Ana. Sylla
- 4 Sublease
- 5 Professions
- 6 Outdoors
- 7 Springs
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- 9 Race official
- 10 Resort
- 11 Helpful hints
- 12 Eur. river
- 13 Laborer
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- 16 Monthly abbr.
- 17 Holy cow!
- 18 San Antonio
- 19 tourist spot
- 20 More dreadful
- 21 Singly
- 22 Run on
- 23 Reagan or Sinatra
- 24 Door sign
- 25 Devoured
- 26 Burden
- 27 Nothing
- 28 Broadcaster
- 29 Daytime show
- 30 Lunches
- 31 Obtain
- 32 Calif. peak
- 33 Malignant
- 34 Network of nerves
- 35 Snick or —
- 36 Dejected

Saturday's Puzzle Solver:

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Flojo bids farewell by final award

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Triple Olympic champion Florence Griffith Joyner, the fastest woman in the world, on Monday received the prestigious Sullivan award as the nation's Outstanding Amateur Athlete of 1988.

Griffith Joyner was selected over nine other finalists — all Olympians and many also world record holders — for the award presented by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) since 1930.

Overcome by emotion, the 29-year-old retired track star wiped tears from her eyes as she accepted the award before a banquet audience of 1,300.

"It's been more than a dream come true since July 16 when I set a world record here," said Griffith Joyner. "It took me 20 years to get a world record and a gold medal."

Griffith Joyner, who last month announced her retirement from competition to pursue careers in acting and writing, shattered the women's 100 metres world record with a 10.49-second run at the U.S. Olympic trials here last summer.

At the Seoul Olympics she set a 200 metres world record and collected three gold medals and a silver medal.

Following long-standing tradition, the AAU did not announce a vote tally and the nine other finalists are all considered runners-up.

The other finalists included Olympic champion swimmers Matt Biondi and Janet Evans, Olympic figure skating gold medalist Brian Biotano and Karch Kiraly, who led the U.S. Olympic team to volleyball gold in Seoul.

"The sad thing is that there are not 10 such awards because all the finalists deserve one too," Griffith Joyner said.

Johnson took drugs, but test was fixed — coach

TORONTO (AP) — Ben Johnson's track coach suggested Monday that the sprinter was a victim of sabotage, saying the runner had been taking steroids until just before the 1988 summer Olympics, but not the drug for which he tested positive.

"I was totally shocked," Charlie Francis said as the second week of testimony resumed at a Canadian government inquiry into drug use by athletes.

"I thought something's got to be dramatically wrong," he said, recalling his reaction when told Johnson's urine test showed the banned steroid stanozolol.

The discovery led to Johnson's disqualification from the Olympics. He was stripped of his gold medal in the 100-metre race and banned from international competition for two years.

Francis, who had testified earlier that Johnson had been using steroids in regulated cycles since 1981, said the sprinter last took the steroid furazabol and that Johnson stopped taking it by

Sept. 2 — 22 days before he won the gold medal.

The coach said that when Johnson was told of the positive test, the sprinter said, "I knew there was something wrong with that guy."

Francis said Johnson was referring to "a black guy" who appeared to be American and who was in the holding area with Johnson while the drug test was being taken.

The coach said this unidentified man was drinking beer with Johnson and he suggested the athlete's drink could have been spiked. He also said that stanozolol would be a good substance to use to spike a drink so that it showed up on a drug test because it metabolizes rapidly in the

body. Johnson's last used stanozolol in a regulated steroid programme in the spring of 1987, Francis said.

Francis, who captivated the courtroom with three days of detailed testimony last week, is the first witness from track and field to appear before the commission.

He also suggested Johnson had been a victim of sabotage last fall in his only public statement on the Seoul scandal before the inquiry began.

In resuming his testimony, Francis said Johnson was taking steroids just before the Olympics because of an injury and the wear-and-tear of an August European tour.

He said the programme was planned by Dr. George "Jamie" Astaphan and included furazabol, an inosine and vitamin B-12 mixture that was not on the banned substance list, and a synthetic growth hormone.

Schneider angling for record win

SHIGA KOGEN, Japan (AP) — The World Cup ski season winds up this week with the overall men's slalom and giant slalom races scheduled Thursday and the men's slalom Friday.

On Sunday, men's and women's parallel races are planned.

In the men's giant slalom, Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland leads the standings by only one point, 71-70, over Rudolf Nierlich of Austria.

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, who already has clinched the specialties, is third in the giant slalom with 66.

In the slalom, Alberto Tomba of Italy, who has won only one slalom this season after winning six slaloms and three giants slaloms last season, still has a chance

to come from behind. He stands third with 100 points, behind Girardelli's 106 and the 102 of Armin Bittner of West Germany.

A race victory is worth 25 points, second place 20 and third place 15.

Before the World Cup circuit moved to Shiga Kogen, in Central Japan, Nierlich won a men's giant slalom, Schneider took a women's slalom race, Maria Walliser of Switzerland won a giant slalom and Christian Oie Furuseth of Norway scored his first World Cup victory, in a men's slalom, at Furano, on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

On Tuesday, the skiers practiced at Shiga Kogen. No official results were announced.

UK's Robson faces media knives

LONDON (R) — Ron Atkinson may have chafed his nails with anxiety for 75 minutes Saturday, but for England manager Bobby Robson the agony of observing a solitary relegation battle instead of a full first division programme was a welcome luxury.

For Robson, who takes England to Albania for an unpredictable World Cup European group two qualifying tie Wednesday, the postponement of all matches involving his players should mean an end to the ritual worrying over the casualty lists.

However, late Saturday a problem emerged over the return match on April 26 at Wembley. Robson learnt the Liverpool v Arsenal League game was scheduled to go ahead as planned on April 23, televised live.

The agreement with the football league gives television chiefs the right to screen the game on that day, but breaches an unwritten agreement to keep clear of the date in order to help England.

Robson quickly appealed to the football league saying: "I hope the league won't allow it. It is totally against my wishes."

Five players from Liverpool and Arsenal are included in the squad which will fly to Albania Monday and Robson has capped the same number of players from the Highbury club alone this season.

Few England managers of the past have enjoyed the luxury of league-free weekends in the build-up to important international fixtures.

Sir Alf Ramsey, who led England to World Cup victory on their own soil in 1966, had to sweat out a full football league programme before England faced Poland in a World Cup qualifier at Wembley in 1973.

He knew, as Robson has done so often, that injuries to key players would jeopardise his position as England manager.

Walter Winterbottom had faced an identical situation 20 years earlier when Tom Finney was injured in a weekend game and pulled out of the historic 6-3 Wembley defeat by Hungary.

Ramsey, who scored one of England's goals from a penalty

against Hungary, had the backing of league managers in his quest for a free weekend, but no support from the administrators.

The senior managers felt it was unfair to both club and country and pointed out that players in the England squad were subconsciously holding back for fear of injury on the Saturday before an international match.

It is Robson's good fortune today that the league are committed to cooperation with the English Football Association (F.A.) for the overall benefit of the English game.

But in 1973 league secretary Alan Hardaker said: "It is a football match not a war... let us keep our sense of perspective. Everyone is getting hysterical. If England do lose, the game is not going to die. It will be a terrible thing for six weeks and then everybody will forget it."

Ramsey, whose side drew 1-1 with Poland, was dismissed soon afterwards when a 1-0 defeat by Italy confirmed their exit from the World Cup.

Hardaker's world became part

of English soccer's folklore. Robson, solidly backed by the F.A.'s administrators, knows he would face unprecedented media criticism if England failed to emulate group leaders Sweden by winning in Tirana.

Defeat, like those at the European championship finals in West Germany last June, would provoke another wave of hysteria which even the stoical Robson may find too hard to bear again.

Robson, as if to acknowledge the threat, on Saturday chose to prevent his players from speaking to the British press.

He said he had been stung by comments attributed to defender Terry Butcher in various popular newspapers. "I've read that if we lose on Wednesday I'm out of a job and therefore the players are out of a job," he said.

"Who says that? It's time to stop that sort of conversation. I have got to stop the players talking to the press from now on for this match... I don't feel under intense pressure at all and I am hoping the players won't either."

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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LYBER

YEDEK

TALKEN

DEGULC

Careful where you're driving

THE FIRST THING A MAN OFTEN RUNS INTO WITH A NEW CAR.

Now arrange the jumbled letters to form the words above, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

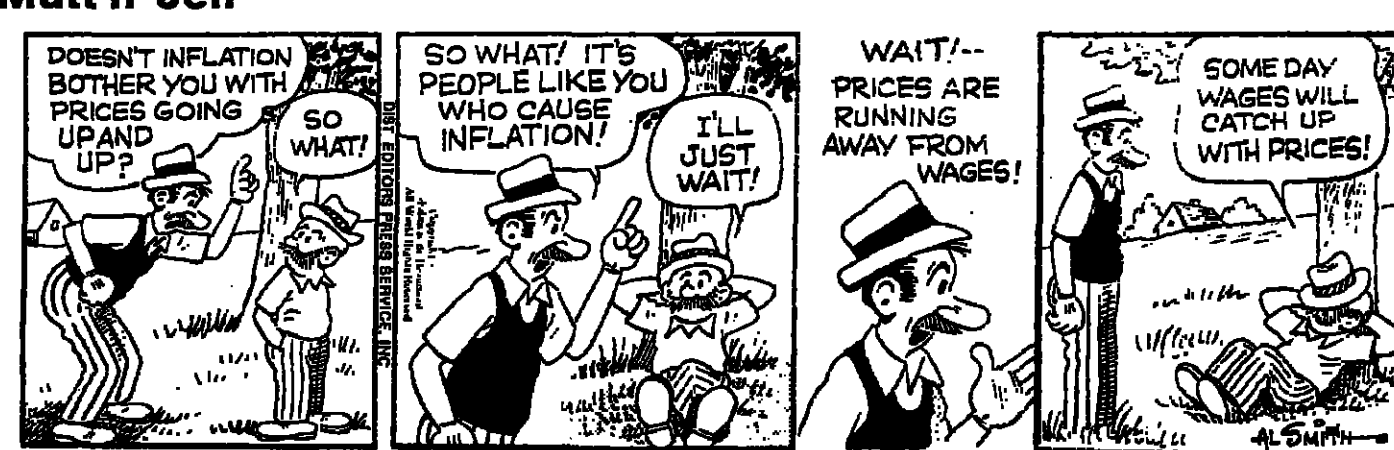
Yesterday's Jumble: CLICK ADAPT EYELD DAMPEN

Answer: Some compliments are not so much: candid as this — "CANDID"

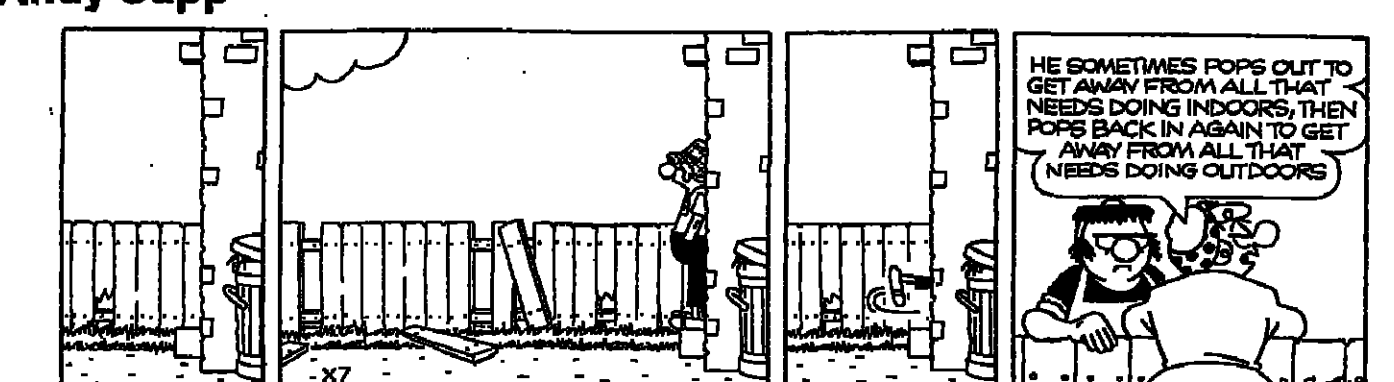
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Pandemonium hits KAL blast trial

SEOUL (AP) — Hundreds of police and security agents ringed a Seoul court Tuesday to hold back angry relatives as a confessed North Korean agent went on trial for the 1987 bombing of a South Korean airliner in which 115 people were killed.

Several relatives allowed into the opening session of the trial screamed insults and shouted "I'm here to kill you" and "bring back my husband" at Kim Hyon Hui as security agents led her into the courtroom.

The prosecution presented its evidence Tuesday and the court adjourned until March 21, when defence lawyers will make their representations.

Kim said on South Korean television last January that she planted a bomb on the South Korean airliner in November 1987 as part of a plot to disrupt the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul.

Kim, charged with mass

murder, destruction of an aircraft and violation of national security and civil aviation laws, has confessed and is expected to be found guilty. But the death sentence she would face could be stayed because the woman was duped by North Korean intelligence and did not know what she was doing, said court sources, who declined to be named.

Other North Korean intelligence operatives captured by the South have been pardoned and used as propaganda tools against the North.

Kim appeared slightly shocked as she was brought into the court dressed in a blue shirt, brown trousers and a blue plaid windbreaker. She buried her face in her hands and sobbed as the relatives yelled at her.

The Korean Air Boeing 707, on a flight from Baghdad to Seoul, disappeared over the Andaman Sea as it approached the Burmese coast. All 115 passengers and crew were lost.



Kim Hyon Hui

North Korea has repeatedly denied it had anything to do with the case.

Some 1,500 police and security agents guarded the trial against disruption by relatives and any possible threat from North Korean agents.

South Korean authorities allowed the press full access to the trial in an apparent effort to embarrass North Korea. Seoul has used Kim as a major propaganda tool against the communist North.

Peking declares martial law in Tibetan capital

PEKING (Agencies) — China Tuesday declared martial law in Lhasa, following three days of pro-independence rioting in the Tibetan capital.

In its main evening news bulletin, state radio said martial law would take effect from midnight Tuesday (1600 GMT) to protect public security and property in the city.

The radio said that martial law was declared by the State Council, the top governing body, "because constant disturbances by a small minority of separatists have seriously endangered social order."

The announcement was made after crowds of Tibetans staged a third day of anti-Chinese protests in Lhasa while truckloads of armed police skirted the area of the demonstrations without intervening.

Officially China says 12 people including one policeman were killed in clashes Sunday and Monday. Tibetans believe more than 60 are dead and doctors put the figure around 30 with more than 100 casualties.

State radio said the State Council had decided to impose martial law "to preserve social order and to protect personal

safety and property and prevent encroachment on public property."

The government of the autonomous region of Tibet would take concrete steps to implement the measures, it said.

A public security official in Lhasa contacted by telephone shortly before the announcement told Reuters he had received no instructions on any special security measures to be taken.

State television later broadcast the first film of the riots in the Tibetan capital, showing crowds of angry Tibetans gathering in the streets Sunday.

Youths were seen stoning a police station. Ransacked government buildings and charred remains of stereos and bicycles were shown as well as firemen fighting a blaze.

"The scope of this latest riot is bigger than disturbances of past years. More people have taken part and the area affected is larger," said the People's Daily in a front-page report from the Tibetan capital.

Lhasa residents said the latest violence was possibly the most serious since March 10, 1959 — the start of a mass uprising crushed by communist troops.

Tibetans continued to stone and attack Chinese civilians who ventured into the Tibetan section of town. One American tourist said he saw a Chinese man running up the city's main street, Peking road, bleeding from his face and neck.

So far police, armed with tear gas, guns and machine guns, have been responsible for subduing the violence.

On Tuesday Chinese police fired on Tibetans for a third day, and a group of pro-independence activists carried the banded Snow Lion flag of Tibet around the city's centre. The protesters lighted bonfires of Chinese-owned goods, tourists said.

China maintains it has ruled Tibet for centuries but Tibetans disagree. Communist soldiers entered Lhasa in 1950 to assert Peking's claim to sovereignty.

Peking has tried a more conciliatory line in recent years in an effort to win back the confidence of Tibet's two million mainly Buddhist people. But it has been unable to check sporadic vio-

lence. The official New China News Agency said the order had been signed by Premier Li Peng.

It said the order was issued in accordance with the Chinese constitution which gives the State Council the authority to decide on the enforcement of martial law.

The clause in the 1982 constitution to which the order referred does not define martial law and it was not clear whether a curfew would be imposed on the city.

Western diplomats in Peking quoted reports that one Tibetan family had been killed during violence in Lhasa Monday night but they said these reports could not be independently confirmed.

Crowds of more than 1,000 and joined by young children, old women and monks, took part in the unrest Sunday and Monday.

Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, fled into exile in India along with thousands of his followers after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

He appealed to world leaders Monday to help end the violence in Tibet by persuading Chinese leaders "to stop the continued violations of human rights."

A whole load of information

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Paid pitches for jeans, a candy bar and dandruff shampoo were mixed in with a fast-paced menu of current events Monday as a televised news show for teenagers had its first day of school. The paid advertising on Channel One, a show produced by Knoxville-based Whittle Communications LP, has enraged some education groups who want big business barred from making sales pitches to students inside the classroom. But the students, teachers and parents who witnessed Channel One's debut at Central High in Knoxville expressed few reservations about the ads. "It's fine with me," said Shelley Bible, a 14-year-old. "You get more pressure from other students than you do from the commercials." Toi McCane, a 17-year-old senior, said the commercials "are just the same thing you get on the news at night." The 12-minute news programme included two minutes of commercials.

English-language film wins African prize

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — An English-language movie won the grand prize in the Pan African Film Festival for the first time in the event's 20-year history. The filmmaker called on African governments to do more for the medium. The film, "Heritage of Africa," was made by Ghanaian Kwah Ansah and recounts the story of a Ghanaian civil servant. While moving up in the administrative system that the British established in Ghana, he discovered he has lost all cultural bearings. Previous winners of the film prize have been in African languages or French. The prize, awarded Saturday night, includes about \$13,000, twice that given to the 1987 winner. The film also won the Organisation of African Unity prize.

Stable complaints land man in jail

LILLESTROM, Norway (R) — A Norwegian farmer has been jailed for making bootleg liquor after a neighbour complained to police that his stables smelled of hooch, not horses. Svein Erik Bergan, where received a four-week sentence Monday, confessed that he was making 1,000 litres of illegal moonshine a day. Police said they investigated the neighbour's complaint and found stores of sugar, tanks with a capacity of 72,000 litres and huge stills hidden in the stables. "I was going to buy some horses as cover," Bergan told the newspaper Dagbladet.

Madonna talks, but not about Dec. 28

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Madonna speaks frankly in an interview in Rolling Stone magazine — except about what happened Dec. 28. According to some newspaper reports, that was the night her estranged husband, Sean Penn, left her tied up in a chair for nine hours. Madonna filed charges and later dropped them, but says the reports are "extremely inaccurate, as they usually are. They made it all up." Madonna's new album, which debuted Thursday in a Pepsi commercial, includes a song "Till Death Do Us Part" that is about the violent breakup of a relationship.

Be careful with names at Iran trial

WASHINGTON (R) — Witnesses in Oliver North's trial have to worry about more than telling the whole truth of their roles in the Iran-contra affair. They also have to worry about naming names. "May I name the name?" has been asked by all six men who have testified in the two weeks since questioning began. When the answer is no, testimony tends to fill up with numbers — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official number one, Costa Rican official number two, a second Asian nation — and even the witnesses sometimes find it difficult to keep the numbers straight. Robert Owen, North's courier to Nicaragua's contra rebels, was asked to testify for the prosecution about his dealings with seven CIA officials he met in the course of North's effort to supply and finance the contras. But without names it was hard to remember which was which. "I'm sorry, I'm going to have to see the list again," Owen told defence attorney Brendan Sullivan on cross-examination.

Norway reaches dead end in hunt for heavy water

OSLO (R) — Norway seems to have reached a dead end in its efforts to unravel what happened to several shipments of heavy water, which can be used to make atomic bombs.

The Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that a Swiss court last week turned down a request by Norwegian police to question key witnesses in connection with the alleged illegal rerouting of 15 tonnes of heavy water to India in 1983.

There has been no progress in investigations into two other cases involving shipments to Romania and Israel, government officials say.

"We have currently reached a dead end in Switzerland and must decide what to do now," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Sigrid Romundseth said.

Norway said in November that the heavy water, which can be used to make plutonium, was

rerouted to Bombay from Basel in Switzerland in defiance of international regulations. Whether Bombay was its final destination is still uncertain.

The Norwegian request for a court order compelling employees of the Swiss firm Orda AG, which was allegedly involved in the shipment, to attend police interviews was rejected because of a statute of limitations.

"Should it be impossible to get any further in Switzerland, the next step would probably be for Norwegian police to get in touch with Indian authorities and ask for assistance," she said.

Norway had heard nothing from the Indian government, despite repeated requests for help since November. "But we have not given up, we will try every possible way to find out what happened to the water," she added.

Norway is also probing what

happened to 12.5 tonnes of heavy water it sold to Romania in 1986 for use in two atomic reactors that have not yet come into use.

Oslo had asked Romania to disprove media reports that the country had secretly resold the water, also known as deuterium oxide, to Israel or to another country.

"These reports have not been disproved," Romundseth said, declining further comment.

Norway, which has exported heavy water to 35 countries since it became a leading producer in the 1950s, insists that it should be used for peaceful purposes only.

India has refused to sign a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. It denies having atomic bombs but carried out its first nuclear explosion in 1974, saying it was for peaceful purposes.

Malaysia calls on Hanoi to stem flow of refugees

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia, at the opening of a three-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur Tuesday, urged Vietnam to stem the flow of Indochinese refugees to solve the 10-year-old problem.

The flow of boat people from Vietnam should be stopped by that country and a programme created to allow Vietnamese to emigrate directly to countries willing to accept them, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said in an opening session.

Some 130 delegates from 30 countries, including the United States, Japan and Vietnam, as

well from several international organisations, are attending the meeting to prepare for the international conference on Indochina refugees, scheduled June 13-14 in Geneva.

In his address, Ghafar said: "There are... signals indicating that the countries providing temporary asylum are no longer prepared to respond as they did in the 70s. Neither do they wish to bear the problem indefinitely."

Officials at the conference estimated there were more than 75,000 Vietnamese refugees in southeast Asia: some 16,200 in Malaysia, 4,500 in the Philippines, 2,350 in Indonesia, 200 in

Singapore, 25,800 in Hong Kong and 180 in Taiwan.

About 80,000 Laotians and Kampuchians are camped inside the Thai border, awaiting return to their countries, officials said.

Since 1979, about 1.5 million refugees have been resettled, including the 150,000 sent directly from Vietnam to the West, officials said.

Malaysia has voiced concern that those refugees not acceptable to third countries would be left behind in Malaysia. The country provides only temporary asylum to boat people and plans are under way to shut down remaining refugee camps.



Back to Hanoi: Seventy-five refugees, who fled Vietnam in boats, boarding a chartered jet in Hong Kong Thursday to return to the Vietnamese capital.

Agreements for the repatriation was reached by Vietnam and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

British railway crashes spark concern over safety

LONDON (AP) — The deaths of 42 people in three rail crashes since December have sharply added to concerns about Britain's ailing network and charges that safety is falling victim to economy.

Following Monday's crash, the latest of three recent accidents on the state-run British Rail network. Transport Secretary Paul Channon said passengers now had real fears about travelling by train.

Two passengers were killed Monday and 44 others were injured when two commuter trains collided three kilometres east of the southwest Scottish port city of Glasgow.

On Saturday, five died and 94 were injured when two passenger trains collided near purely station on London's southern outskirts. On Dec. 12, 35 were killed and

more than 100 hurt in a crash involving three passenger trains at Clapham junction near London.

John Prescott, transport spokesman for the opposition Labour Party, Monday called for an inquiry into safety "to ensure that standards are not being compromised in order to meet financial targets that are too tight and demanding."

Speaking in the House of Commons, Prescott quoted a former British Rail head of signalling and safety, Stanley Hall, as saying safety was being compromised because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government was being "tight-fisted."

Prescott said British Rail was having to finance capital expenditure through fare increases. He said the government grant to the network had been cut by 35 per

cent in five years, a saving of more than £2 billion (\$3.4 billion).

"The financial climate set by (Channon) in which British Rail operates means that new safety measures, such as the installation of new advance warning systems which are being installed elsewhere in Europe, have not been adopted," Prescott charged.

Channon accused Prescott of trying to score political points. He said government investment in British Rail was running at "historically incredibly high levels." It stood at £560 million (\$963 million) this year and would rise to an average of £755 million (\$1.29 billion) a year over the next four years, he said.

But he conceded: "We have got to allay that concern (among the public about rail safety) and remove that concern."

Walesa tries to end stalemate

WARSAW (AP) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak held talks Tuesday for the second time in a week to try and settle issues that have delayed agreement on the legalisation of the trade union, a government spokesman said.

A spokeswoman at the Solidarity Press Office declined to comment on the meeting, saying an announcement would be issued later.

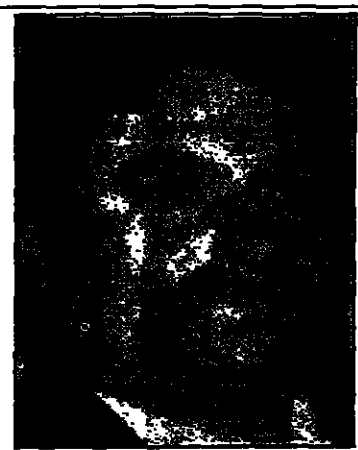
The historic two-month-old talks between the government and the opposition are aimed at producing a compromise in which the government would legalise Solidarity and other groups banned in the December 1981 martial-law crackdown.

In exchange, the opposition would agree to participate as a minority in parliament and endorse a programme of political and economic reforms.

But agreement has been delayed by differences on several issues that Walesa and Kiszczak hoped to clear up in their meeting Tuesday, according to government spokesman Jerzy Urban.

The two men also met Thursday and agreed that the talks should be speeded up.

During a party session Mon-



Lech Walesa

day, the leadership of General Wojciech Jaruzelski once again won qualified endorsement for continuing talks with the opposition, Urban said in a telephone interview.

The two sides are more or less in agreement on the general outlines of a national compromise: Legalisation of Solidarity in exchange for the opposition's participation in early elections that would guarantee the Communist Party a parliament majority.

But several obstacles have appeared, including the authorities' hesitation to legalise the banned students group NZS; the failure to agree on a programme to index wages to inflation; and differences on details of the new electoral law and opposition access to the state-controlled mass media.

Organs of homicide victims spur transplants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The burgeoning homicide toll in the nation's capital is providing doctors with a new source of organs for transplant.

"There's always going to be tragedy and there are going to be fatalities with young people," says Dr. John MacOviak, medical director of the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium.

"And the one and only clear-cut benefit to society of that, which didn't exist until recently, is the fact that other lives can be saved as the result of these people that lose their lives prematurely."

The District of Columbia and neighbouring Prince George's County, Maryland, and Fairfax County, Virginia, each had record homicide rates in 1988. In

the district alone, more than 90 people have been killed thus far this year. That is far above the 1988 rate.

In the district and Prince George's County, many of the homicides are attributed to drugs. The record homicide rates are "absolutely" increasing the number of available organs and tissue for transplant, said MacOviak, who performs heart transplants at the Washington Hospital centre, the city's largest and most active trauma facility.

"I would say that probably about twice the number of donors are being produced this year as were being produced last year," he said.

Last August, the consortium received 14 referrals for organ

donations. Six months later, the number had risen to 27.

In addition to the record homicide rates, the availability of organs for transplants also has been assisted by a District of Columbia law passed in January 1988 requiring that families be asked to donate organs.

Victims felled by a single gunshot wound to the head are the most likely candidates for donation because their organs aren't damaged, said MacOviak.

When they can, doctors keep gunshot victims alive on a ventilator. But if it's certain the person is brain-dead, hospital and consortium officials ask the bereaved family to donate the victim's organs.

"I'd say the families of drug

victims are very supportive as rule," he said. "They want to donate the organs."

"It's solace," concurred John Bardi, a consortium executive committee member and assistant administrator at George Washington University Hospital. "It's the way they deal with their grief, to know the individual is alive in someone else, to know they've touched someone else."

When dealing with homicide victims, hospital staff also must cooperate with homicide detectives and the medical examiner, and these delays sometimes make it impossible to perform transplants, said MacOviak.

Tests are run to ensure that the potential donor meets rigid criteria.

Russians make timely invasion

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

MILAN — Watch out: The Russians are coming.

The Soviet Union's old-fashioned mechanical watches are already conquering fashion-crazy Italy, and the rest of Europe and the United States are the next targets.

Genuine Soviet-made watches are selling in classy Italian jewellery shops as fast as the Russians can produce them.

And less than five months after the first Cyrillic-inscribed "made in the USSR" time pieces crossed the frontier, the Soviet watch industry has received the highest of accolades — thousands of fakes are appearing on the streets.

The Soviet Union has long been the world's third largest producer of clocks and watches after Switzerland and the Far East but until last autumn exports were confined to selling parts and movements to Western makers.

The chunky 1950s-style wrist-watches, including five models previously made exclusively for the Red Army, are

the most successful Soviet consumer products to reach the West under Mikhail Gorbachev's new era of reform.

Displayed in high-class Italian shops next to gold Rolex and diamond-studded bracelets, the utilitarian Paketa and Red Army Bocktok watches have become a sought-after status symbol.

"We have convinced jewellers who sell watches worth millions of lire (thousands of dollars) to display side by side these simple Soviet products which cost as little as 100,000 lire (\$74)," said Orazio Occhipinti, who last autumn clinched the European distribution contract for Paketa.

Occhipinti told Reuters his entire stock of 40,000 Paketa watches was sold out in the two months before Christmas and he has no doubt that the 150,000 more he plans to import to Italy in 1989 will get a similar reception.

"They are an anti-status status symbol... the Russians seem a bit astonished. They can't quite understand why they're in such demand," Occhipinti said.

His Milan-base Mirabilia

firm won the contract against competition from about 50 Italian companies keen to capitalise on the wave of "Gorby fever" sweeping Western Europe.

Eager for hard currency the Russians needed little persuasion to sell, and Italy, whose six million watch sales a year make it the third largest consumer market in the world, was the ideal place for a test launch.

"Once a watch was simply a watch and something you bought for a lifetime. Now it's a fashion accessory which also tells the time. Men change them like they do ties, and for women they're like earrings," said Occhipinti, whose teenage daughter has a collection of "about 20" cheap and cheerful watches.

"Given the success, we could have asked twice the price but we decided to market the Paketa as a fashion item aimed at the middle and upper classes," he added.

Following a major Italian trade fair in Moscow last October, another Italian company, Time Trend, won a five-year contract to handle the first ever

commercial sales of the legendary Bocktok wrist watch.

The five distinctive models, bearing the design of either a parachute, submarine or tank for the respective divisions, a plain red star for infantry and a special version for all commanders, are available in the Soviet Union only to the military, importers say.

On sale in Italy since late January for 280,000 lire (\$210), they are being snapped up by both collectors and the ordinary public despite minimal advertising.

"Everything Russian is creating attention at the moment but demand has been even higher than we expected," said Maurizio Berardi, managing director of Time Trend.

"Collectors are buying up all five models at once. Some shops in Milan sold more than 200 in February alone," he told Reuters.

Berardi said the five-year distribution contract for Europe and the United States was worth about 15 billion lire. "Selling Russian watches to the Swiss will really be fun," said Occhipinti.